

# The Righteous Christian

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

The death during the second week of August of the saintly Anglican scholar, Dr. James Parkes, has removed from our midst one of the primary architects of the world-wide movement for improved relations between Christians and Jews.

The passing of this 84-year-old British historian-theologian--whose studies decisively influenced my career more than any other single personality--also terminated the life of one of my most cherished personal friends who did me the high honor of including me in the dedication of his book, *Prelude to Dialogue*, as one of "the Pioneers of Dialogue."

In 1928, James Parkes, an Oxford graduate and Anglican clergyman, was serving in Geneva as secretary to the International Student Service. There he encountered for the first time anti-Semitism among German students and he learned about numerous clausus discrimination against Jewish students in Eastern Europe. To this civilized, sensitive, and humane Christian, that anti-Jewish hatred was a moral abomination, and he began an intensive study of the Christian sources of anti-Semitism that became his life dedication.

His monumental study, *The Conflict of the Church and Synagogue - A Study in the Origins of Anti-Semitism*, became a classic, influencing the attitudes of thousands of Christian leaders. With the constant inspiration and active help of his marvelous wife, Dorothy, James Parkes wrote scores of major books and pamphlets on Jewish history and religion, and on Israel. So determined and effective was his pro-Jewish advocacy that the Nazis placed his name on Hitler's "death list."

The last public tribute to James Parkes several years ago in Southampton epitomized his life and work as one of "the truly righteous among the nations." The text of his honorary doctorate said it all: "a scholar in an age of unreason, an individualist in an age of conformity, and a tolerant man in an age of intolerance."

May the memory of my beloved friend and teacher, James Parkes, be forever a blessing.

# FRANCE IS THE CULPRIT

The new French Socialist government of Francois Mitterand has taken an ominous shift in its foreign policy direction in the Middle East, directly contradicting its original claim to keep an objective eye extended towards the region. The leaning toward the pro-Arab forces in the region is the most disturbing development in some time from the Elysee Palace. Furthermore, there has been a total disregard and a lack of contact with Israeli government officials, and now a persistent knee-bending to the Palestine Liberation Organization by Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson.

Cheysson appears to be running the show for the Administration while Mitterand has taken a back seat regarding Mideast policy. Cheysson scheduled a trip to the Middle East and intends to visit Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, at first completely overlooking Israel and Egypt. Clearly not a proper and correct way to formulate a Mideast foreign policy approach, but yet hand in hand with the continued stream of Arab dignitaries who Mitterand and Cheysson have entertained while there has been no representation from the Israeli government.

During his trip to the Middle East, Cheysson intends to meet with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat who is now using his self-professed new diplomatic leverage in the Mideast process to arrange for Cheysson to meet with him in PLO headquarters in Beirut. The French Administration has insisted on more neutral ground. Either way, this clearly indicates that Cheysson sees the PLO as a more important instrument in peace negotiations than two sovereign states in the region. This also comes in the aftermath of the declaration by the PLO of its commitment not to recognize Israel's right to exist, as stated by Ibrahim Souss, the PLO representative to France.

The finale came at the end of the week with a call for the resignation of Cheysson by the French Jewish community and then, just a day later, an announcement that Cheysson will in fact visit Israel and Egypt in October. This action was reportedly taken by Mitterand himself who is upset over the mounting wave of unrest and protests that have swept through the Jewish community, a community that was supportive of his Presidential election campaign.

The point remains, however, that Cheysson has taken the initiative on foreign policy

decisions during the first few months of the Administration's time in office while Mitterand gets into the picture when Cheysson's early anti-Israel policies turn against the Administration's own well-being. A recent editorial of a usually pro-socialist Jewish weekly paper in France, *Tribune Juive*, claimed that the time has come to judge the French Administration on its acts and not on its sentiment or its professed sympathies. This is clearly the case.

## NEW NURSING SERVICE OPENS HERE

A new community nursing service opened here recently to provide relief help to doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and private patients in the performance of professional nursing services and medical assistance.

The new Medical Personnel Pool office is one of over 170 offices dedicated to providing temporary and long-term skilled nursing services to institutions and individuals throughout the U.S. and Canada. Over 300,000 patient care hours are currently being provided each week by the international nursing service.

Medical Personnel

Pool will operate from their new office at 830 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 2, Las Vegas, Nevada, under the administration and joint ownership of Lois E. Best, Diane Best and Cindy J. Brown.

According to Lois Best, the goal of Medical Personnel Pool is two-fold -- to maintain a pool of highly qualified, experienced nursing personnel including RNs, LPNs, nurse aides, companion aides, live-ins and travel nurses, and to match their skills and hours with those needed by the patient or client on a 24-hour day, 7-day week basis.

## REAGAN LIFTS EMBARGO

WASH. (WNS) -- The Reagan Administration announced from Los Angeles that the embargo on deliveries of warplanes to Israel has been lifted. But as the week continued, reports from the Pentagon here indicated that the 14 F-16s and 2 F-15s will remain grounded indefinitely for technical reasons. The decision to end the suspension of deliveries, which was announced by Secretary of State Alexander Haig after a meeting of the National Security Council in Los Angeles, was seen in Israel as an obvious step on the eve of Premier Menachem Begin's meeting with Reagan scheduled for early September.

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