

Billy Graham Goes to Moscow

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham announced a few weeks ago that he plans to go to the Soviet Union on May 9th -- and therewith hangs a tale of special interest to the Jewish community. Dr. Graham accepted an invitation from the Metropolitan of the Russian Orthodox Church to preach at a religious congress devoted to the nuclear arms race and its threat to human survival. The White House and State Department fear that the Soviets will exploit Dr. Graham for their propaganda purposes, and intensive efforts were made by U.S. Government representatives to have Dr. Graham change his mind.

On March 10, at the Templeton Award Luncheon in New York -- at which I was asked to speak about Billy Graham's relationships with Jews -- Dr. Graham told me that he was determined to go to Moscow, one of the few places in the world where he has not yet preached. We discussed ways by which to counter Soviet exploitation of his presence. Then Dr. Graham asked if I would help him meet with Soviet Jews as a gesture of solidarity. I assured him that I would.

We recalled together a similar conversation several years before when he went to Hungary and then to Poland. In each case, Billy Graham volunteered to meet with Jewish leaders as a signal to the repressive governments that the world-famed evangelist cares about the human rights and religious freedom of Jews as he does about Christians.

When you consider his unorthodox record of support of Israel and his vigorous stands against anti-Semitism, it is clear without question that Billy Graham is one of the best friends of the Jewish people and of Israel in the entire Christian community.

Art and Politics

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

The President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, William Macomber, recently decided against exhibiting an archaeological show from Israel because it would include artifacts from the so-called "disputed territory" occupied by Israel. Under a variety of pressures, he then appeared to change his decision. Mr. Macomber, who is a former U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, said that the Museum's directors rejected the exhibit of ancient artifacts from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim history, because it would create "political and security problems."

The original decision rankles with hypocrisy and deceit unworthy of a great museum. Despite the reversal, the intention that led to rejection deserves examination. Not too long ago, the Metropolitan Museum mounted an expensive exhibit of Iran's culture, a country at war with Iraq and filled with Ayatollah Khomeini's daily massacres of human beings. The Met's Macomber clearly doesn't consider that "political" or a "disputed" issue.

The Metropolitan Museum also exhibited displays of the world of Islamic art and Egyptian archaeology -- all of which came from countries where the fanatic Moslem Brotherhood assassinates presidents and burns down Christian Coptic churches. To Macomber's ambassadorial mind, none of that violence qualifies as "political."

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger just sailed through Saudi Arabia and Jordan peddling the most advanced American arms weaponry,

thereby conforming America's foreign policy to suit his former employer, Bechtel Corporation, which has billions of dollars in contracts with Arab countries. And now Met President Macomber seems prepared to sellout America's cultural standards to suit his Arab clients.

The time is long past due for a full-scale Congressional investigation of these Arab lobbyists who are selling out America lock, stock, and oil barrel. They are the real "dual loyalty" issue of America, and their weasling behavior for Petro dollars make the Abscam affairs look like child's play by comparison.

BONN (WNS) -- Wilhelm Westerheid, a former SS official accused of complicity in the murders of 9,000 Jews in the Wladimir-Wolynsk ghetto in the Ukraine during World War II, went on trial in Dortmund. Westerheid, 73, was acquitted by a Bielefeld court in October, 1979 after the prosecution failed to produce sufficient evidence for conviction. A higher court reversed that decision on July 1980 and ordered a new trial.

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