

Open Letter to the Pope

BY RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Your Holiness:

Yaser Arafat slaughtered more Christians than any person now alive.

Yet you saw fit to see him and raise his prestige.

When you saw him did you reproach him for his savagery towards your people?

In Beirut, bandits who call themselves Christians (thus blaspheming that term) engaged in a bloody massacre. Have you denounced or at least renounced them?

Sometime ago you compelled a humanitarian Jesuit priest, Father Robert Drinan, to give up his seat in the U.S. Congress because you sent out a signal that you did not want a priest in politics.

Please explain why you leashed Father Drinan, whose character and career were replete with humanitarian activities (in keeping with the moral values of Roman Catholicism at its noblest) and you released Archbishop Valerian Capucci.

Capucci was caught red-handed smuggling arms to avowed killers. He was let out of jail because your aides promised that he would be kept from political activities.

Yet Capucci has surfaced in many parts of the world voicing violent, vicious and virulent bigotry.

You are one of the most popular personages on earth. You are the only person today whose very appearance can attract a million people. You have spoken of the need for greater manifestations of mercy.

Can you please explain the mystery of some of your policies? Many of us would be most grateful if you would.

UAHC BEGINS DRIVE TO RAISE \$5 MILLION

LOS ANGELES (WNS) -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) launched a \$5 million drive here to rescue, restore and reacquire long-lost documents and artifacts representing 1000 years of Polish-Jewish history. The funds will go toward the UAHC's Polish Judaica project initiated last year following the signing of a unique cultural exchange agreement between the Reform Jewish group and the University of Warsaw.

Dr. Armand Hammer, president of Occidental Petroleum Corp., served as chairman of the \$500-a-plate dinner in the Beverly Wilshire Hotel attended by 600 guests. Hammer called the UAHC - Polish agreement "a breakthrough because for the first time a Communist nation, Poland, has agreed contractually with an American Jewish Organization to provide Judaic objects, manuscripts and art, much of which has been inaccessible to Western scholarship."

Many of the works of Polish Judaica were thought lost or destroyed in the Holocaust. Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the UAHC, told the dinner guests: "We cannot

bring back the martyrs of our people, or restore the burned scrolls and precious manuscripts that have been lost forever. But through this historic agreement, we can and will carry out our proud obligation to preserve, for today and for the years to come, the precious fragments of a vanished world. In doing so, we will more vividly remember, more fully comprehend and more nobly honor the vitality and genius of one of the great communities in our people's history."

Since the agreement was signed, Schindler reported, the project has been broadened to include the restoration and reconsecration by the UAHC of Jewish cemeteries in some 400 cities and towns in Poland, as well as the restoration of several synagogues, the furnishing of a new synagogue in Lublin and the construction of a Jewish chapel at the site of the Maidenek concentration camps.

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SHARON APPEALS

(Continued from Page 6)

if Israel "does not stand firm now...we may reach the same situation that we had before the war" in Lebanon. "Nobody wants to move the Israeli troops out of Lebanon more than we do ourselves," he assured the visitors. "But it would be a major mistake if after so many sacrifices and so many casualties we were to move back without solving the problem of the threat of terrorism (returning to Lebanon)."

Standing on a hilltop in Elkana, from which the Gush Emunim settlers and visitors have a wide view of the entire coastal plain -- a spot where Sharon often brings visitors to explain his security views, even though no UJA funds are spent on the West Bank -- the Defense Minister blamed the free world for compromising with terrorism instead of fighting terrorism.

The UJA gather-

ing began at Modiin, the ancient birthplace of the Maccabees. The group proceeded directly there after arriving at Ben Gurion Airport to meet with President Yitzhak Navon.

In an official UJA statement, the purpose of the gathering is defined as: "To demonstrate world Jewry's support of the people of Israel and the solidarity of the Jewish people around the world. They also want to see and hear at first hand what the situation in Israel really is, and what the feelings and reactions of the Israeli people and their leaders are to the recent troubling events."

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