

Pope: Persecution Of Jews Is 'Sinful'

SYDNEY (JTA) — Pope John Paul II was addressing leaders of Australia's Jewish community. But his words were a message to the Christian world: "No valid theological justification can ever be found for acts of discrimination or persecution against Jews. In fact, such acts must be held to be sinful." The Pontiff, on his visit here last month, met, at his request, with a delegation of nine Jewish leaders, led by Leslie Caplan,

president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

His condemnation of anti-Semitism followed a statement in which the Pope recognized that this "is still the century of the Shoah" (Holocaust) and emphasized the words of the Nostra Aetate encyclical of 1965 in which the Catholic Church deplored "the hatred, persecution and displays of anti-Semitism directed against the Jews at any time by anyone."

The meeting took place in the Presbytery of St. Mary's Cathedral on the morning of the Pope's only full day in Sydney. His speech did not refer to the State of Israel although Jewish delegations had formally requested the Vatican to consider diplomatic recognition of Israel.

'Truths Of Our Jewish Heritage'

"Where Catholics are concerned," the Pope said, "it will continue to be an explicit and very important part of my mission to repeat and emphasize that our attitude to the Jewish

religion should be one of the greatest respect, since the Catholic faith is rooted in the eternal truths contained in the Hebrew scriptures, and in the irrevocable covenant made with Abraham.

"We, too, gratefully hold these truths of our Jewish heritage and look upon you as brothers and sisters in the Lord," the Pope said.

He added that "to be frank and sincere" both faiths must recognize "that there are still obvious differences between us in religious belief and practice" but "nothing, however, pre-

vents us from true and fraternal cooperation in many worthy enterprises such as biblical studies and numerous works of justice and charity."

"Such combined undertakings can bring us even closer together in friendship and trust," he said. He also

referred to "widespread violations of human rights" which "makes it all the more important for people of good will to stand together to defend life, defend the freedom of religious belief and practice and defend all other fundamental human freedoms."

Soviet Family Emigrates

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D'Amato has been personally involved in the Bravve case, as well as that of other Soviet cancer patients who are trying to emigrate. He has maintained regular, personal phone contact with the cancer patients' families and has spoken several times to the Soviet delegation to the Helsinki talks regarding these patients.

He accompanied the Bravves to the United States and held a press conference at JFK Airport in New York upon their arrival.

The Bravves had visas and airplane tickets in January 1980. But they were told to return their visas "for clarification" a week before they were to leave, and they did not receive them back.

A month ago, the Soviet Ambassador to the Helsinki talks, Viktor Kashlev, made a public speech in which he said that the Bravves had received their visas the day before. The Bravves, however, knew nothing of this and Vladimir Bravve was sent home several times from the OVIR emigration office in their native Moscow. They received written permission to leave last Friday, and the actual visas were put into their hands Tuesday. This time, said Shapiro, the Soviets were eager to get them out as soon as possible and waived half the paperwork requirements.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A South African author and a foe of apartheid, John Coetzee, was named the winner of Jerusalem's Freedom of the Individual in Society Award. The 46-year-old Afrikaaner first gained international acclaim in 1982 for his book "Waiting for the Barbarians." Other books by Coetzee include "In the Heart of the Country," "The Life and Times of 'Michael K.," "Dusk Lands," and the soon to be released "Foes."

Happy Chanukah



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