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Churchmen Address Two Topics

U.N. Action Decried

We, as representatives of the Christian Community of the Rochester area, conscious of the close link that binds us to the Jewish people and the bond between the people and the land of Israel from biblical times to the present, wish to join our voices to those who are decriing the action taken at the United Nations on Nov. 10, 1975. We express our solidarity with the Jewish people in this dark hour when international anti-semitism is once again being championed.

With the Jewish Community Federation of Rochester we reaffirm that:

Zionism is the liberation movement of the Jewish people. To equate it with racism, of which Jews have for centuries been the chief victims, is, as Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan called it, "an obscene act."

Zionism stresses that Jews, like every other people in the world, should have one place where they live in a majority — where they can speak the Hebrew of the Bible, construct a society based on Jewish law and social justice and develop their own religious and national culture.

Even in its most secularized manifestations, Zionism retains at its core the ancient Jewish hope for the redemption of the Jewish people and of all mankind. In our own day, Zionism has been given a tragic nobility and urgency by the massacre of European Jewry, fully one-third of the Jewish people.

Release Meyer Report

A statement of the Executive Officers of the Christian Churches in Rochester, New York, Nov. 14, for release to the Public of the Meyer Report.

We write not just for ourselves but as representatives of a sizeable cross-section of the religious community.

We request and strongly urge immediate release to the public of the Meyer Report concerning the prosecutions of those involved in the Attica Prison tragedy. The report has been under study by Gov. Hugh Carey for the past two weeks.

We are convinced this report can significantly affect the continuation of the trials concerning the Attica Prison tragedy of 1971.

We have consistently urged since 1971 that there be both justice and compassion in the resolution of that tragedy but the case has been interminably delayed for more than four years at great cost, emotional and financial, a toll too great to go on needlessly.

We, therefore, call for prompt release to the public of the complete Meyer Report. Further delay in publication will only diminish or destroy public confidence in the quality of justice available in New York State.

Rt. Rev. Robert R. Spears Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

Rev. Frederick Reissig, dean, Genesee Valley District, Lutheran Church in America.

Rev. Richard Harrington, superintendent, Rochester District, United Methodist Church.

Rev. Carl R. Smith, executive presbyter, Presbytery of Genesee Valley.

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Silent Protests

Three men, silently and in their own ways, protest the U.N. General Assembly action which equated Zionism with racism during a massive demonstration in New York. At left, Hendrick Bulsztyl and Jay Friler, survivors of Nazi concentration camps, are dressed in the uniforms they wore in the camps. At right, an old man, flanked by two women demonstrators, quietly reads from a prayer book during the rally. (RNS)

Zionism Ruling Draws Protests Here and Abroad

By JOHN DASH

A storm of religious protest, local, national, and international erupted last week over the United Nations General Assembly resolution defining Zionism as a form of racism.

In a press conference here last week, Father Joseph Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, asserted "I am proud to call myself a Zionist."

The press conference was called by the Jewish Community Federation. A panel of prominent civic and religious leaders, including three Catholic clergymen, voiced their disapproval of the resolution.

Father Brennan said "This action taken by the General Assembly clearly reveals that racism is indeed flourishing in our midst, but it is not Zionism that stands convicted. The racists are those who framed this resolution and voted for it."

On Monday, Nov. 10, the assembly voted 72 to 35 to declare Zionism a form of racism. There were 32 abstentions and three delegates were absent.

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, speaking in Washington for the United States Catholic Conference, strongly deplored the resolution, charging that it "retards" the needed struggle against racism in the world and "opens the door to further persecution of the global Jewish community."

In one of the strongest statements to appear after the vote, Dr. David Hyatt, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews declared that the U.N. assembly "has now allied itself with Hitler and the whole Nazi movement which horribly eliminated one third of the total world Jewish population in the 1930s."

He said the action was a "blatant, obscene and nauseating outburst of resurgent Nazism, Fascism and a medieval religious bigotry that is shocking almost beyond belief in this 20th Century."

At the local press conference, Father Charles Lavery, president of St. John Fisher College, said that "the wound to Israel on Monday last is a wound I feel in my own faith and life."

"As a student of international law," he said, "I witnessed the beginning of the U.N. make a giant step to bring peace and love

among nations. The U.N. action against Israel is not only inhumane but a reversal of man's historic struggle to find the peace of God. The U.N. action is a wound to the world."

From Geneva, Switzerland, Dr. Phillip A. Potter, world secretary of the World Council of Churches, declared that organization's "unequivocal opposition to the equation of Zionism with racism." Potter urged the General Assembly to "reconsider and rescind" its action.

In a telephone interview,

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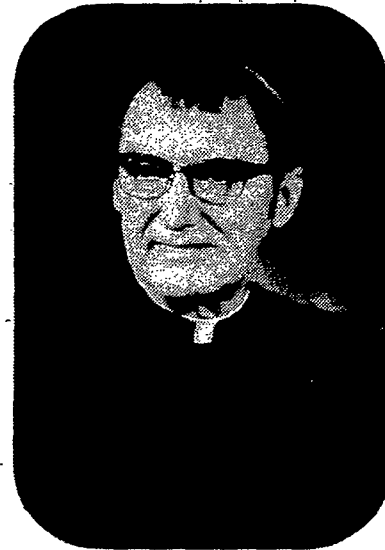
Father Schifferli Plans to Retire

Father William J. Schifferli, pastor of Christ the King parish since 1961, is retiring because of his health. He told his people Nov. 9 that he would be leaving them at the end of the year.

He has two other jobs to resign as he winds up parish affairs. He is chaplain to State Police Troop E and is on the board of directors of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Schifferli, 61, reaches the 35th anniversary of his ordination on Dec. 21. He came to the Irondequoit pastorate from a six-year residency as Catholic chaplain at the state school at Industry. In the final year of that position, he served as vice president of the National Association of Training School Chaplains. From time to time, he has served a variety of organizations as chaplain.

He has served also on the Diocesan Conciliation Commission, as treasurer of the Clergy Relief Society and on the Priest Personnel Finance Committee.



FATHER SCHIFFERLI

He was a member of Bishop Sheen's Diocesan Financial Evaluation Committee and for three terms he was president of the board of trustees of the Irondequoit Public Libraries.

Father Schifferli was born in

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