Interview with Rabbi Beck

of Neturei Karta

By Pat Harrington

Pat Harrington interviews

Rabbi Beck of Neturei Karta

Interview conducted in 1991

This interview between Rabbi Beck and Patrick Harrington was first conducted in 1991. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of Third Way but we have decided to republish the interview as a means to advance understanding and because we have great respect for Rabbi Beck.

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Rabbi Moshe Dov Beck, a leading rabbi in the Orthodox Jewish anti-Zionist movement in the United States, who has written many volumes on the issue of Zionism and is a well-known public speaker on the subject. He was born in Hungary and survived the Holocaust by hiding for a year in a bunker, while his mother and siblings were all killed. After the war he moved to Jerusalem and married into a family of Palestinian Jews who had lived there for many generations. Later he left the Holy Land due to the rise of the Zionist state.

Q - Could you first explain what Neturei Karta is?

A - Neturei Karta was not founded as an official organization. Neturei Karta is a general name which the world has given to those who are opposed to Zionism. In order to understand this topic, we have to understand what Judaism is and what Zionism is. Those Jews throughout the world who oppose Zionism have been given the name Neturei Karta.

Q - What for you then is the definition and essential nature of a Jew?

A - The definition of Judaism is that Jews have received the Torah from Mount Sinai. They handed over the Torah from one generation to the next. This is the only possible definition of Judaism. There is no other definition.

Q - So then, a Jew essentially is one who upholds the given Law? The Torah?

A - One hundred per cent!

Q - What is your attitude to the Reform Movement?

A - The Reform Movement has left Ultimate Truth.

Q - How would you define Zionism?

A - Zionism is a relatively new movement which is based upon a heretical denial of Judaism. It has succeeded in recent years in being able to fool a large section of the Jewish community into following its ways.

Q - In what way would you say that Zionism is heretical?

A - An adequate answer to this question would take a lot of time. I will attempt to answer briefly. It should be clear that a truly adequate answer would take a long time.

Zionism is heresy. If we examine the deeds and the actions of the Zionists we can see that they are an irreligious group which attempts to enforce irreligiousity upon all those who come in contact with them. For example, their courts of law are based upon non-Torah sources. Practically speaking, we see that they are irreligious and they force irreligiousity although it must be noted that in Israel one finds a Ministry of Religion and one also encounters people who refer to themselves as 'religious Zionists'. This fact should not blind us to the central fact that the purpose of Zionism and its essential character was to deny religion and to go away from religion. The fact that there are signs of religion in the Zionist government is simply a tactic which they use. It is an appendage to their true self which is anti-religion.

As we see in the writings of the Zionists themselves, their purpose was to construct a new image of the Jewish people - to create a new Jewish people. Their goal was to change a people who were constituted on the basis of faith and Torah and to substitute for that a people who are free from both faith and Torah. This does not necessarily mean that they would actively try to destroy religion but merely by saying that religion is a matter of personal conscience - that each person can decide for themselves whether or not to obey the religion?

That religion becomes a private affair. By so saying this, they have destroyed the intrinsic character of the Jewish people, that character being an acceptance of Torah.

We find that they refer in their writings to 'freedom' and 'tolerance' so that their State or in their conception of the Jewish people a Jew would have a right to accept or reject religion. In fact in the history of the Zionist State we see an active attempt to destroy religion.

Q - In what way have they tried actively to destroy religion In Israel today?

A - The hatred towards religion and towards religious Jews extends from one end of the country to the other. If we examine the history of the Israeli State we see that each group of immigrants that was brought in from countries such as Morocco, Algeria, Iraq and Iran and today Russia, the government conducts an active campaign to wean them away from the practice of religion. At times it is a violent campaign. Those that tried to stop this government attempt were at times killed. That happened in certain cases. It was not a standard policy. The standard policy was to take Jews away from Judaism. As a witness to that we see that many organizations that were founded with the express purpose of preventing the government and the Zionists from pulling Jews away from Judaism. New immigrants have been especially susceptible to what they were trying to do. The existence of these several organizations, not necessarily Neturei Karta, but several organizations that were working to prevent the Zionist attempt to destroy Judaism is proof to what the Zionists were trying to do.

Q - What then is the Zionist opinion of what a Jew is if they have gone away from the definition of someone who accepts the Torah and practices its precepts?

A - The true definition of a Jew is faith and Torah. Zionism says it is nationalism.

Q - On what do they base this claim to nationalism?

A - In truth they had no basis and they themselves said that they were originating something new. Were it not for certain elements of the religious community that attempted through various devious means to confuse the minds of people it would have been clear that it was completely baseless as far as authentic Jewish sources were concerned.

Q - If the Zionist State does not base its legal system on religious foundations, on what kind of principle does it base its legal system? Is it some kind of Social Contract idea?

A - Irreligious conceptions of what a State should be.

Q - I have read that the Haskala are seen as the precursors of Zionism by Neturei Karta. Could you explain and expand on that Point?

A - Until now we have been concerned with the practical evil effects of Zionism. I would now like to move over to the more philosophical or the ideological underpinnings of that. The Jewish people are based on an internal conception of who they are. That internal conception is faith. That faith which stretches back to Mount Sinai. There is nothing else amongst Jews. The only thing that Jews have is their faith.

The basis of Jewish faith is an inner feeling of godliness. All conceptions of Jewish peoplehood should be based on a sense of God and godliness. The notion of a State or and army of anything of that sort which is not rooted in a traditional religious conception of godliness is a denial of everything that Jews are supposed to be. It is a naturalistic or a materialistic approach to the Jewish people. It is a denial of Jewish peoplehood. For example, the Torah commands us that our eating and drinking or going about our physical daily activities must be permeated by godliness.

To suggest that Jewish people can engage in a purely naturalistic, deterministic understanding of themselves is to deny the basic central qualities of the Jewish people which are spiritual. Zionism did not only deny the central nature of Judaism which is entirely spiritual but it is also an attempt to change that essential nature by saying that the Jews are not in their core a spiritual people but merely a material people.

The Haskala or 'Enlightenment' suggested that there was something else of value to the Jewish people besides the spiritual. By so doing it denied this principle we have been emphasizing all along. A Jew who believes the Thirteen Principles of the Jewish faith which were codified by Maimonides and which have a long history of being the thirteen essential dogmas of the Jewish religion, is considered a part of the community of Israel. A person who denies those thirteen principles has placed himself outside that community.

Q - Who were the main thinkers involved with the Enlightenment tradition and in what period did they put forth such views?

A - The first one that we can mention was Moses Mendelsohn approximately two hundred years ago. This was a time when the jaws were first emerging from a period of persecution and ghettoisatlon. When they left the ghettoes they thought that the freedom that they sere now getting could also become a freedom from religion, from the Torah.

The basic problem with the Enlightenment was that there was an element of perfection arid self-improvement that was not spiritual. Therefore the emphasis that Jews should study secular wisdom, secular knowledge was a fundamental principle of the Enlightenment. Now the problem with that was not the study itself for there had always been Jews who had studied 'worldly wisdom'. The point was that they were saying that this 'worldly wisdom' was a missing element, that there was something missing in Torah and in a spiritual conception of a Jew. For a Jew to think that there is perfection outside of godliness is heresy. The Enlightenment began by saying that there is something other than spiritual perfection. The tie-in with Zionism now becomes clear in that the Enlightenment was emphasizing that man's perfection is Man.

Zionism is the same thing, not by saying that the perfection of man is study or enlightenment but by saying that the perfection of man lies in national salvation. Both of these are manmade suggestions that there are other forms of perfection and fulfillment besides the spiritual. What Zionism said was not so much that the Torah should not be observed but that true value lay in nationalism. The Torah could be an appendage to nationalism but that 'the real' essential fulfillment of Judaism was nationalism.

Q - How far were the Zionist thinkers influenced by the nationalist climate in Europe at that time?

A - It is not a question of influence, it was precisely the same process taking place. At that period in time there was a tremendous sense of self-determination. The Zionists mistakenly compared themselves to these other nations that were then involved in self-determination and nationalism.

The fact that we note that there are some Torah observing Jews that do adhere to Zionism can be explained by the fact that the Zionist denial of who the Jew is not necessarily a physical, technical denial but at times a spiritual denial, so that by postulating that there is something for a Jew other than fulfillment in the Torah but by not trying to uproot It, Zionism was capable of conning a certain number of observant Jews. The thing was not necessarily manifest In action By saying that there is fulfillment for Jews in nationalism they were denying the basic foundation of Judaism. Since they were not doing this in action they were capable of deceiving Torah observers as well.

Q - In the early stages, how far was Zionism a majority view within the Jewish community in the different European countries?

A - The basic principle of Zionism was that Jews should abandon their traditional thought patterns which were

spiritual and adopt completely new ones. It is conceivable that large sections of the Jewish people could continue to observe the Torah and yet become infected with the Zionist notion that there is something else beside Torah. I want to keep hammering away at this point that although a Jew can remain observant, in his heart-of-hearts he will have abandoned Torah because he will have given something else to value.

For a Jew there can be nothing else of value. Conceivably one could go on being observant and one could think that one has the proper dogmas and yet have missed this basic point. Historically it did not happen and it would not have been possible for Zionism to grow amongst these segments of the Jewish people that were devoted to Torah and the traditional ways. It could not have grown. It could not have started out.

At the time that the 'Jewish State' was established that new establishment was a violation of the Three Talmudic Oaths which prohibited the Jewish people from forcefully ending their exile. Even before the State came into fruition, the mere thought that this was something that Jewish people should engage in was already a denial of the basics of faith. At the time when Zionism began the Torah leaders of the Jewish community opposed Zionism with fiery opposition. This was with the exception of a handful who for whatever reason went along with it. Because those leaders understood the way that it denied the essential spiritual nature of the Jewish people, it was almost unanimous and forthright opposition. After both world wars and poverty and suffering which Jewish people underwent, people began to become confused and began to feel that there might be salvation through this means.

Q - What is the nature of the relationship of anti-Semitism in the development of Zionism?

A - I cannot explain the root of anti-Semitism because I am Jewish. Zionism itself is the greatest enemy of the Jewish people. It has caused untold suffering to the Jewish people. The extent that Zionism caused anti-Semitism is a secondary point. The major point is that Zionism has created havoc amongst the Jews themselves.

Besides the fact that Zionism is a spiritual threat to the Jewish people, the early Zionists actually wrote that it would be profitable for the Jewish people to have anti-Semitism. They wrote that we should actually try to encourage anti-Semitism to force the Jews to opt for Zionism. This is the connection. Anti-Semites in Europe actually took Zionist writings which emphasized Jewish 'differentness' and used these writings as an excuse for their anti-Semitism. There was a practical connection as well as the spiritual connection.

There is no doubt that the sufferings which the Jewish people endure are spiritual sufferings that God imposes on them for various sins. One of the punishments for transgressing the Three Oaths mentioned above that the Jews were to be sworn By God not to rebel against the nations and visit to re-establish their nationhood by military might - was that God said that he would allow the Jews to be slaughtered. He would allow their flesh, so speak, to become open to anyone to attack them, so certainly there was a connection in that sense between anti-Semitism, Nazi persecution etc. Because Jews having transgressed these oaths thereby left themselves to such persecution.

Q - How far did anti-Semitism In Europe contribute to the change in the attitude of the majority of the Jewish population towards Zionism and lead them to see Zionism as some sort of solution?

A - Certainly the suffering endured by these people between 1940 and 1945 was capable of confusing them. It led them to believe that their salvation might be obtained through naturalistic means. Here we can see the difference between the Zionist conception of Judaism and the Torah conception of Judaism. The Zionist conception would say. 'The reason that we suffered between 1940 end 1945 was because we were incapable of defending ourselves properly, we had not gotten our act together, we were weak and we should be strong.' Whereas the Torah conception would say, 'People have suffered because of their sins. It is art act of Divine Providence. Search out these sins which have caused that Suffering', here we see a very distinct difference in the reactions of traditional Jews and Zionists.

Q - Why was Zionism appealing to a section of the Jewish population if they were inculcated with respect for the Torah? What led them towards Zionism?

The combination of the suffering and the fact that at certain points in history the Evil Powers in the world become powerful enough to be able to snatch certain souls. There are certain points in history where spiritual uncleanliness is capable of triumph. The War also has to be emphasized. The tremendous destruction of the Jewish people made people, even those who were brought up in a Torah environment, susceptible to this. They were looking for something to prevent this from happening again. A certain percentage of the strong personalities who had led the prewar generation had been killed during the war. A lot of the truly learned Torah leadership no longer existed.

Q - What then should be the attitude of a Jew towards Zionism and the State of Israel?

A - There must be utter and total disdainful rejection of Zionism and the Zionist State.

Q - If the Jews are not to have a homeland or nation-state of their own and if they cannot further that state through material means what should Jewish attitudes be towards the countries that they are living within?

A - Not only what the Jewish response should be but what is the fact the traditional response of Torah Jews today is a response of total loyalty to the countries in which they find themselves, total patriotism to the countries in which they find themselves because this is in fact the commandment of God and the commandment of the Torah that Jews should behave in that way.

Q - Why then do some feel that there is a tradition of that not being communicated to the [Jewish] people in many lands? In European countries that doesn't seem to have been communicated.

A - Those 'quiet Jews' who are obedient to the Torah and to God have this position. Unfortunately they are not loud and the louder Jews have made this impression [of disloyalty] and anti-Semites are predisposed to take these 'loud Jews' and to emphasize them and not to emphasize the silent masses.

Q - Essentially then the Zionist nationalism is based on a denial of the essential nature of what a Jew is in the religious conception? It's a strange sort of nationalism that denies the actual thing that defines a nation in the first place! This is very difficult for Europeans to understand, so perhaps you could enlarge on that point. The second point is if they are on the one hand using a religious definition as they seem to be basing many of their arguments to be a nation on an implied acceptance of religion, this is perhaps one of the factors which creates anti-Semitism because people see a strange connection, They think 'what is this definition? Is there

some racial element to it? Not stated, but which is implicit because they are not going for the religious but asserting the right to be seen as a notion and people have it in their minds, 'What is the underlying principle? is it a racial thing?

A - The essential nature of Judaism or nationalism?

Q - *Firstly I'm asking whether Judaism and Zionism are essentially contradictory. Is it denial of the very thing that defines a Jew and how can gentiles understand that?*

A - We can understand this singularly strong notion that a people by denying their very essence constitute themselves as a people by understanding that the Zionists themselves are to be viewed as the lowest element among the people. We're not talking about a middle element or an upper element amongst a people beginning a movement. We're talking about those who deny Judaism, people who throughout the history of the movement have been willing to use Jewish blood as the oil to grease the tires of their movement.

They've always been willing to kill and be killed Jews and other peoples.

We're talking about a lower element, so the fact that a lower element sought a definition which was a denial of the essentials of Judaism is not surprising at all.

Not only are they lower element among the people but the fact that tray were able to construct this apparatus of a State was very alluring and although it was based upon the denial of Judaism, the attractive apparatus of statehood was successful in blinding the eyes of people.

Regarding the previous point about Zionism and anti-Semitism. Firstly, anti-Semitism, amongst Jews, was always regarded as punishment from God for our sins. Anti-Semitism appears to be an, irrational thing so clearly this is proof that it is providential. It's from God - a punishment

from God for our sins. Secondly, Zionists did do things which clearly incited anti-Semitism. immoral things, aggressive things in opposition to England like killing soldiers and similarly now with the Palestinians.

(Interjection from colleague of Rabbi Beck) I'm from Palestine you know?

I was born in Jerusalem, many generations of my family lived in Jerusalem and lived together with Arabs in peace. Hatred from the Arabs began in response to Zionism at that lime.

Q - What is the origin of anti-Zionism within Neturei Karta and of the name 'Neturei Karta'?

A - There was a lime in the 1920s in which Zionist agitation had led to a tremendous degree of Arab anti-Semitism. There was a point in which it was almost impossible to walk out in tile streets of Jerusalem - the Arabs were that interested in killing or injuring any Jew they saw. At that time the anti Zionist Jews decided that the proper response to this Arab violence and hatred was to go to a printer and print up a brief Talmudic passage which follows:

"When Resh Lakish [who was one of the Talmudic sages] came to a town he asked. 'Who are the guardians of the city?' The people replied, "The showman, the military. Resh Lakish said. 'They're the guardians of the city? They're the destroyers of the city! The true guardians of the city are the pious people who are engaged in prayer'. The name 'Neturei Karta' means 'guardians of live city', 'Neturei' means 'guardian'. 'Karta' means 'city'.

They wanted in the Twenties to take this Talmudic passage, have it printed and plastered on the walls of Jerusalem without any commentary at all. Just this one passage. They went from printer to printer and they were unable to find anybody at that time who would print this

passage that would be put up on the walls. At that time the response was always, 'we've got to fight', so all the printers were unable to print this passage until they finally found one somewhere.

The response of the Zionists was so negative towards this passage that it became adopted as their [anti-Zionists'] symbolic passage and hence the name 'Neturei Karta'. Rabbi Blau who was one of the founders and chief ideologues of this movement actually told me this story. He was one of those who continued on with the anti-Zionist tradition from that time.

Q - Explain the attitude of Neturei Karta to the Palestinian people. How would it be possible for Jewish people to live within Israel and conduct their religious duties and prayers and so on and have reverence for the Holy Sites but also have a relationship with the Palestinian people without having a State?

A - Since authentic Jewish people are opposed to the notion of a State altogether, there would be no problem whatsoever in Jews living in the area of Israel and Palestine. For hundreds of years there were Jewish communities of Prayer and study in the area that the State of Israel rules today. Those communities lived in complete peace with the surrounding Arabs. Not only in Israel, but also throughout the Arab world, traditionally Jews and Arabs lived together in peace. There were other lands where there was conflict. The Arab lands were completely peaceful for the Jews. That was the way it was in Palestine and that could continue in the future. There would be communities of Jews that would be interested in prayers and study and that could be under a Palestinian State in absolute peace and harmony - as it has always traditionally been in Jerusalem and other cities in Israel.

(Interjection from colleague of Rabbi Beck) The hatred between Jews and Arabs in Palestine was caused by Zionism. This did not exist beforehand. I cart testify to this myself. My grandfather lived peacefully with Arabs 150 years before the Zionist movement. After this the whole problem was created by the Zionist movement. We lived in a neighbourhood that was full of Arabs. We would borrow things from each other and there was no problem whatsoever.

Q - Does the Neturei Karta co-operate with any Palestinian groups?

A - I want to emphasize that we are not limiting 'Natural Karta' to one organization. We are describing the tendency of authentic Jewry to fight against and oppose Zionism. We don't want to limit it to one group or name. Their approach is friendliness to all peoples of the world. What they can say is there should not be a 'Jewish State'. Exactly what the parameters of the alternative should be is not their business. That's not their role to say. For example if two lawyers are working on separate cases, one lawyer should go about advancing his own case. Whoever it belongs to should work out who it belongs to Clearly the Zionist State is wrong. What the alternative should be is not my place to advocate. Jewish people who oppose Zionism have traditionally participated together with the Palestinians in protests against Zionist atrocities and so forth. We are sympathetic to them and their suffering.

We recognize their right to rule. If we examine this in a simply proper and ethical way they are the legitimate rulers of the country. So if pressed to answer what is our political position it is that they are the rightful rulers of the Country. It clearly belongs to them. The gentlemanly approach would be to have it given back to them, but exactly to whom, to what faction, what group does not concern me. It is clear to me that if it had not been for Zionism the Palestinian people

would never have been opposed to religious Jewish settlements in the area known today as the State of Israel.

Q - Explain the relevance of the three Talmudic oaths?

A - The only possible approach to the problem of the State of Israel which could result in a solution which would not involve suffering and blood spilled by Jews and others would be the abandonment of the State. Clearly it appears that this is something that they are not going to do. The problem - the cause of the suffering is Zionism and the Zionists.

It is important to emphasise tie distinction between a Zionist and the conflict between the Jewish faith and Zionism. Zionism is the cause of the hatred between Jews and Arabs.

The Three Oaths are as follows - Firstly that Jewish people should not rebel against the nations of the world; Secondly that they should not engage in any actions which will accelerate the coming of the End of Days and the Third is that they should not go as a mass group to Israel. These are the Three Oaths that were placed upon the Jewish people. Obviously Zionism is in direct conflict with these Three Oaths.

Q - What essential message would you like to give to non-Jewish Europeans in how they should respond to the various things you trade said?

A - As a message to European peoples, I emphasize that Judaism is defined as a religion - a spiritual affair based upon faith and the Torah. This is the sole interest of the Jewish people - to pursue their spiritual life and their spiritual destiny. They are in no way a politically aggressive people, they have no devices or intentions upon any other people.

I ask that European peoples do not confuse and attribute to the Jewish people the actions of Zionists. These actions are rejected with utter disdain by the Jewish people. Traditional Jewish people are enraged by the theft of the term "Israel" by the Zionists. Non-Jews should realize that this was a theft. The Zionists stole this name and there is no connection whatsoever between the actions of the Zionists and traditional Jewish people. European peoples should view these as two separate groups and not attribute the thoughts of one to the other.

Thank You.

The text of this interview has also been reproduced on the Neturei Karta website at:
www.nkusa.org/activities/interviews/rabbibeck.cfm

Torah opposition to Zionism

FAQ's By: Rabbi Moshe Dov Beck

An Explanation of Our Presence
on the pro-Palestinian rally

Q: May I ask you a few questions?

A: Of course.

Q: Who are you?

A: We are Orthodox Jews, Jews who keep the old, original Jewish faith and Torah.

Q: What is your purpose in appearing here?

A: Our purpose is to make known to the world something that not everyone knows: that the authentic Jewish people is not identical with the Zionist idea and the Zionist state, but rather the two are diametric opposites, like day and night.

Q: I don't understand what you're saying. I have a whole list of questions. May I ask?

A: Of course.

Q: What exactly is the Zionist idea, and why is it diametrically opposed to the original Jewish people?

A: The Almighty sent the Jewish people into exile due to their sins. Through His true prophets, He warned us not to organize ourselves and arise on our own from

exile. The Almighty alone, without help from any creature and without any organization, will redeem us. The Jewish people's entire life and existence is faith and Torah. They have been waiting in exile for almost two thousand years, remaining loyal to the warnings and promises of the Almighty.

About 150 years ago, non-believing individuals arose who incorrectly understood the essence of the Jewish people. In their eyes, the Jewish people's essence was not spirituality but materialism, and they proposed a modern solution to the "problem of exile". Mocking the old tradition of faith and hope, they introduced the concept of self-organization, which the Torah forbids. It is from this concept that the Zionist state was born.

One sin leads to another: they unjustly pulled out the ground from under the feet of the Palestinian people, robbed them of their houses and property, and expelled them cruelly and murderously. This would have been a massive criminal act for an individual Jew, both according to Torah law and international law – all the more so for a large group of Jews.

We are here to proclaim that the original Jewish people has no connection to the Zionist idea, their state or their actions.

Q: If they are really the antithesis of the Jewish people, how can they call themselves "Israel"?

A: That is one of their lies. They have no right to use that name. They are not the representatives or

spokesmen for the true Jewish people.

Q: Still, you cannot deny that they protect the Jewish people from their enemies, the Palestinians and other nations.

A: That is a fundamental error. The Palestinians and others are not the enemies of the Jewish people and they never were. Before Zionism, Jews lived among them all with peace and brotherhood. And to this day, Jews live in all Arab and Muslim countries with peace and freedom. Only the Zionists make trouble. They settled on top of the Palestinians' heads, chased them out, stole from them and ruled over them. This alone was the cause of all the hostilities and killing on both sides from the start, continuing to this day with no end in sight.

Q: You see that there was a Holocaust, so you need someone to protect you.

A: Do you think, then, that the Zionists would have been able to take on Nazi Germany, whom it took Russia, England, France, America and others six years to defeat?

Secondly, did the Zionists want to save Jews during the Holocaust? There were times when they could have done so. For example, they could have pressured the Allies to bomb the tracks leading to death camps such as Auschwitz and Treblinka, but they did not. They also refused to give money to save Jews from the Nazis. In certain cases, they even collaborated with the Nazis (these stories are well-documented and fill lengthy

books).

Third, we see that they can't even defend themselves against weak organizations like Hamas, Hezbollah and others. How then could they protect the Jews against a powerful country like Germany?

Fourth, if there were to be an outbreak of anti-Semitism somewhere in the world, the Zionists would not come to the aid of the Jews in that place. Rather, they would exploit the situation and distribute propaganda encouraging those Jews to come running to their state. That is what they did to the Jews in many Arab countries: they raised an outcry claiming that the Jews were being persecuted there, so that the Jews should come to augment the population of their new state.

Fifth, the founder of political Zionism wrote in his book that the way to get Jews to come to the new state would be to light the fire of anti-Semitism around the world and let it burn under the feet of the Jews, so that they should have to run to the land that the Zionists would found. This is exactly what they did, and this brought us the Holocaust. Today, they use the Holocaust for their propaganda.

Sixth, history has shown that we could do without their "protection." Already for sixty years, Jews have generally lived peacefully in the world; the only place where there is constant violence is in their state. However, the Zionists are trying to make disturbances in the rest of the world, crying out over every little incident

in order to prove that Jews must come to them for protection.

Q: Can you deny that there is anti-Semitism in the world, for example in Iran?

A: There is no anti-Semitism in Iran. That is Zionist propaganda. Jews there have special privileges, even in matters of religion. For example, Jews are allowed to make wine for kiddush, although it is forbidden to Muslims. If there is anti-Semitism anywhere, it is because the Zionists arouse it with the cruel acts that they commit.

Q: If Jewish organization and self-defense is wrong, what then would you do if there were real trouble for Jews somewhere in the world?

A: You ask a good question. The answer is deep; absorb it slowly and perhaps you will understand.

1) Faith and Torah are the highest priority for a Jew; his life comes second. We are loyal to our beliefs with our very lives, and we will not trade them away in order to save our lives. In a difficult time, we will only do what the Torah allows us to do, which is to use submissive methods of saving ourselves.

2) We believe that the Almighty causes everything to happen, both good and bad; human beings are only His agents. We cannot free ourselves from His decrees.

3) We believe that the Almighty is the Guardian of

Israel. History has seen many great ruling powers rise and fall, but the Jews still exist and will continue to exist. Organization and self-defense will not help us, just as it did not help those great powers. The Almighty alone can protect us and help us.

4) The punishments that the Almighty brings upon us are for our benefit, to atone for our sins and to wake us up to repent. Repentance, prayer and charity can influence the Almighty to lessen the severity or even annul a decree.

5) The Torah says that self-organization or Zionism is one of the most serious sins, and carries a severe penalty. Rising up in exile will not bring salvation for Jews, only misfortune, Heaven forbid.

6) Since the anti-Semites themselves are not the problem, but are only the stick in the hand of the Almighty, we must not address ourselves to the stick, but to the One holding the stick, that is, the Almighty. We must pray to Him and repent.

Q: If it is as you say, there should be a big movement of Jews against Zionism. But instead we see many Jews with a religious appearance, even many rabbis, who support Zionism.

A: There was in fact a great battle of religious Jewry against Zionism before the Second World War. Almost all the rabbis and their followers opposed Zionism. But most of these Jews unfortunately perished in the War. The survivors were lonely, bitter orphans, and they were

confused by the glittering mirage of Zionism. Besides this, the long years of war brought fear upon all Jews, and even those who disagreed with Zionism felt that in order to save Jewish lives, it was necessary to support the war against the Palestinians and others.

Q: How many Jews agree with you?

A: Among the Jewish people the concept of political parties never existed. Therefore, faithful Jews today do not belong to any party, of which it would be possible to calculate the number of members. But there are very many faithful Jews in the world who oppose Zionism.

Q: If so, why do so few come out to protest?

A: People are occupied with their business and interests. Once in a long while, however, there are protests attended by thousands or tens of thousands.

Among the Palestinians as well, we seldom see a large protest, because it's hard to take people away from their affairs. It is especially hard for us because the Zionists intimidate us with insults, causing us financial loss, destroying our businesses. They also have a big influence over the media, and they refuse to let our outcry be heard. We are not as well-organized as they are.

Q: What do you propose as the solution to the Zionist-Palestinian conflict?

A; No one is asking us in any case, so why should we speak? If they would ask us, we would say that the only

way is to return to our faith and Torah: give up Zionism, be submissive to the gentile nations as the Torah commands us, give back the land to the Palestinians, and then the entire danger will pass (not as they say, that then there will be danger). The solution is a Palestinian government. The whole problem is only that the Zionists want to rule.

Q: What do you think the end will be?

A: We can't tell the future; politics can change overnight. There are thick black clouds on the horizon. But we can say what the Torah says: that something that is against the Almighty cannot ultimately succeed. Whatever success there is can only be temporary. Especially when people sin in the Holy Land, the Torah foretells that they will not last long there.

In short: True Jews and Zionism are two diametric opposites. True Jews have no connection with the idea of Zionism: not with their state, and not with their actions.

Q: What is the meaning of your waiting for the messiah? Will the messianic era be similar to the "Israel" of today?

A: No, it is a completely different concept. The Almighty will renew His world. He will change the minds of all people for the better. Everyone will recognize His kingship and the entire world will join together in serving Him willingly; there will be no more fighting or wars. Zionism is the opposite of all of the

above.

Q: The world hears about certain Zionist rabbis who express support for terrible cruelty to the Palestinians, claiming that this is the Torah view. What do you have to say about that?

A: That is their own opinion. But there are many other rabbis in the world, and none of them agree with those Zionist rabbis. On **the** contrary, they are strongly against them, and were shocked by their words. Those who study Torah know that the Torah's view is against them.

Rabbi Moshe Dov Beck (right) at a demonstration

We Cry Out Against Zionism

This Talk was delivered in Yiddish by Rabbi Moshe Dov Beck and translated to English at a demonstration in Downtown Montreal on July 17, 2007

We have come out into the streets of the city to cry out and demonstrate against Zionism and its State known as “Israel”.

A State which inflicts with cruelty and murderousness, harsh suffering, death blows and undeserved imprisonment on men who wish to strengthen the observance of the Holy Torah within their own camp and who request by means of placards that the holiness of their surroundings should not be defiled by women dressing immodestly.

This state of affairs is currently taking place in Jerusalem and the township of Bais Shemesh.

Zionism and its ‘State’ has been a tragedy from its inception right up to the present day. It has been in existence now for more than a century, in a land which does not belong to them. They have oppressed the inhabitants of the land both Jewish and Palestinian who had been living together peacefully for thousands of years prior to the theft of their land and homes. The Zionists have treated the indigenous population as if they were so much dirt underfoot and as if they did not exist, thereby inciting a terrible hatred which burns right up to the present day.

The very rising up from a state of exile plus the theft and murder is forbidden to the Jewish People as a basic part of their Religious Belief and Torah. From its inception up till today the aim of the Zionists and Zionism has been to deny the Jewish Belief and Torah and to uproot it from the Jewish masses who fall into their hands, by means of murder, wickedness and an audacity the likes of which is unheard of. All this in the name of Israel, a name which they have stolen and usurped.

They survive by the crushing and affliction of all around them.

Most recently they have taken to removing, with a fearsome harshness and insolence, any announcement placards situated in the streets occupied by the orthodox groups, which 'request' observance of modesty in dress. They harass with cruelty those who stand and publicly request modesty in their own neighbourhood. Their actions are accompanied by deadly blows, bone breakages and unwarranted imprisonment.

Since the earliest origins of the Zionist philosophy to raise Israel from its Exile, all the Rabbinical Authorities pronounced vehemently that this idea is absolutely forbidden according to the Jewish Belief and Torah and that this philosophy will only result in suffering and bloodshed to Jews and non-Jews alike, its aim being the entire uprooting of the Jewish faith and Torah. Their words are being fulfilled in front of our eyes as the years pass.

Authentic Jews who have no attachment to Zionism and its deeds cry out to the world at large ‘We wish to make known our sorrow to one and all – let everyone listen – we participate in the suffering of our brothers who live there (in the Zionist State), who find themselves under oppression and anguish for the sake of observing their Judaism’. We shout out to the Zionists ‘Murderers! Oppressors!’. The world should know that the whole Zionist idea is something apart from the Jewish People and that true Jews have no connection with it whatsoever.

Only those who uphold the Jewish Faith and Torah have the right to the names Jew or Israel. Those who have excluded themselves from this have lost the right to these names. Therefore the Zionists are not Israel. The authentic People of Israel have remained in Exile for thousands of years and await the revelation of the glory that is assured by the Torah and True Prophets. At that time will be fulfilled the prophecy ‘Every object will fear you and every creature will prostrate itself before you and all will become one community to carry out your will with entire hearts and all will accept upon themselves the yoke of your kingdom’. Every true Jew sincerely believes that this will surely come about without doubt – hopefully very soon – and this will be the true redemption of the Jewish People. This will take place only by the hand of the Holy One Blessed be He. Until such time we are duty bound to remain in Exile and to be loyal to the places in which we live.

According to the Torah it is forbidden to make an uprising and to throw off the yoke of Exile. It is also forbidden to confront and resist any nation, and we are forbidden under oath to the Holy One Blessed be He on this matter.

The Zionist uprising in which the Zionists rose up in Palestine, expelled the Palestinians with cruel theft and murder and established their State which they called 'Israel' transgressed G-d's Faith and Torah in four ways :-

a. They denied the true redemption and replaced it with a different man made redemption which has no connection with the redemption in which the Jewish People believe and await and which is foretold in the Torah.

b. They rebelled against the Exile and resisted the nations, particularly the Palestinians whom they ousted from their country, so transgressing the Oath to G-d.

c. They have generally denied and thrown off completely G-d's Faith and Torah and every aspect of subservience to the Heavenly Kingdom. They have cast off normal humanitarian behaviour. They have dragged huge numbers of people away from their religion by force, lies and plots. All with arrogance and mockery – with a pride, wickedness and murderousness, the likes of which are unheard of.

d. They carried out theft and murder against the Palestinian People when they drove them from their

land with cruelty and killing.

Therefore, the Zionists and their State have no connection with the Jewish People – the name 'Israel' has been usurped by them and falsified.

Tens of thousands of Jews in the world who believe in G-d's Torah distance themselves from everything connected with Zionism and oppose it.

The Zionists do not represent the Jewish People and have no right to speak in their name. They are nothing more than a band of robbers who oppress all who come under their power with murder and wickedness.

The only place in the world nowadays where religion is suppressed is in 'Israel'.

The only place in the world nowadays where it is impossible to observe the Torah as one would wish is in 'Israel'.

The Zionist cruelty does not let up. Sometimes in one way and sometimes in another way. Sometimes against the Palestinians or other nations and sometimes against the Jews.

Zionism was intended to be a salvation for the Jews. However, Jews live in peace in the whole world, the only place in the world where trouble and suffering does not cease is there. Everyday a new form of suffering

Everyday a new form of religious suppression. The wicked ones spread themselves out like the sea and peace eludes us. We cry out to the Holy One Blessed be

He ‘How long will the wicked ones rejoice! How long will your power be in captivity and your glory in the hands of the enemy!’.

Tens of thousands of Jewish People in the world raise their eyes in longing, ‘When will we be free of this tragedy of Zionism and its State?’

We hope and pray to the Holy One Blessed be He for the peaceful dissolution of the Zionist State and nothing of it or of its ideas should remain.

We hope for the revelation of the glory of G-d speedily in our days. Omein.

A speech by Senior Rabbi Moshe Dov Beck, at a demonstration on November 8, 2009, outside the Holyday inn hotel, while the Israeli Nefesh B'nefesh convention was promoting for immigration to Israel.

With the help of the Almighty we came out here today to express our protest against the Zionist Convention that takes place here in this hotel.

Our protest is actually in general against the entire philosophy of Zionism, not just the event today, but since Zionism came about, the Jewish nation with all leading Rabbis universally, had a strong opposition to the philosophy of Zionism: to organize the Jewish people and stand them up as a political nation, take up weapons, especially when the Zionist philosophy was brought into Palestine and kicked out the indigenous Palestinian population into exile with cruelty, unjustly with theft, and occupied its land.

Since the beginning of Zionism, the Jewish nation had a strong war against this. We don't practice war by hands, but in spirit we are in the strongest terms of opposition to this entire idea, and to its implementing this in reality.

The Jewish nation considers Zionism as a tragedy. For the Jewish nation, it uproots the true belief in God; it uproots the Torah from Jews.

The Zionists are atheists. They have set up a fundamental concept that God and His Torah do not

bind, but even just the idea of escaping the divine decree of exile, was also the greatest uprooting of Jewish faith. Naturally it's not the proper occasion now to explain this. But we say in general, that even just the philosophy of nationalism for Jews, is contrary to Jewish belief. Most certainly what was stolen from the Palestinian people is definitely against the Jewish Torah.

We have come here to express the pain and sorrow of Jews. We have come out, just this small group, in the time that inside this convention is also just a small group. We found this opportunity, just one of hundreds, to express the general sorrow and protest against the entire philosophy of Zionism.

We hope and pray that this whole issue of Zionism and the state of 'Israel' should be dismantled, as soon as possible. God should have mercy that it shouldn't cause any more suffering for anyone, and we hope in the near future for the revelation of God's glory throughout the universe, soon in our days. Amen.

Anti-Zionist Jews to Protest Zionist Purim Provocation Against Iran (by Rabbi M.D. Beck)

New York City — March 18

It has come to our attention that on Sunday, March 20 at 12:00, in front of the Iranian UN Mission at 633 Third Avenue, corner of 40th Street in Manhattan, certain rabble-rousers plan to hold a Megillah reading with the purpose of insulting the Iranian president and heating up tensions. Authentic Jews will be there to register their protest against these troublemakers, as well as express their pain and sorrow at this insulting and provocative behavior, which is a part of an approach that can have catastrophic consequences.

The portrayal of the Iranian president as an anti-Semite and hater of the Jewish people is patently false. In Iran, Jews and Judaism are treated with the honor and respect. The Zionists, ever since the founding of their movement, have adopted a policy of terrorizing and vilifying anyone who does not go along with their political line. But this policy has always brought, and continues to bring, severe consequences for the Jewish people - bloodshed and misfortunes, may the Almighty spare us.

In general, it must be known that the idea of Zionism - that the Jewish people must arise from exile and found its own independent state - is forbidden by the Torah, no matter how it is done. The Almighty sent us into exile, and forbade us to free ourselves

from that exile, promising us through His prophets that He Himself would take us out of exile in a supernatural manner, without any human movement. The Jewish people believes in the Almighty's redemption and waits patiently for it.

Therefore the idea of Zionism and its state, and especially the policy of oppressing, terrorizing and insulting, is foreign and forbidden to the Jewish people. The Zionists' use of the name "Israel" for their state is a farce; it is not a Jewish state, only a Zionist state.

The Almighty commands every Jew to be a loyal citizen of his country of residence, not mixing into political matters between countries. A Jew must live with honor and respect for all people. We especially thank and respect anyone who recognizes the above truths.

May the Almighty bring peace to the entire world, and may the time come when all humanity serves only Him.

[ADDITIONAL EVENTS: - An annual Purim ceremony of burning the Israeli flag, is also being held on the above date, in several Anti-Zionist communities word wide. In Brooklyn NY at Hewes St cor. Lee Ave. at 3:00pm, and in Monsey NY at Phyllis Terr cor. Maple Ave at 3:15pm. Photos of the event will be available on our web site www.nkusa.org. To view photos of last year, click here]

Letter to United States president barack obama

April 25, 2010

To His Excellency,

The Honorable President Barack Obama

President of the United States of America

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to convey our support for you at this critical time. Many Orthodox Jewish communities of America are shocked and disturbed by the recent attacks against your honor by various pro–Israeli groups.

We have always been grateful to this great country, its governments and its presidents for the freedom of religion it grants the Jewish community and all its citizens. The United States of America, with freedoms and opportunities we never knew before, is a shining light in our long, dark exile.

We are especially grateful to you, Your Excellency Mr. President, for your resolve to strive for justice in the Middle East, even in face of Zionist pressure in this country. We pray for your welfare and the welfare of all in your administration; therefore it pains us

greatly to see the Zionist groups' disrespectful words and actions against you. The Zionists speak and do all of this in the name of the entire Jewish people, when in fact a large part of the Jewish people is opposed to them.

As an ideology, Zionism does not represent Judaism. It is, after all, a philosophy born only about 100 years ago, with the aim of transforming Judaism from a religion to a nationalism. Unfortunately the Zionist movement succeeded in capturing the hearts of many Jews after WWII, at a time when most of the rabbis of the world had just been killed, and Jews were in a desperate situation.

By definition, a Jew is someone who is faithful to G–d, keeps the Torah, accepts the yoke of exile and obeys the commands of the Almighty. The Almighty has placed us in exile, and commanded us not to take any actions to oppose His decree. Jews are commanded to remain in all lands where they live as peaceful, loyal citizens of their countries. Furthermore, Judaism teaches us to be kind and merciful, and to respect the property and life of others. The ideology of Zionism has come to uproot all of the above.

Our ultimate hope is for the revelation of G–d's glory, at the time when, as we say in our prayers, "all of mankind will join hands to do Your will with a full heart." And in the words of Isaiah 2:4, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

It is important to know that the greatest rabbis

among the Jewish people vehemently opposed Zionism from its inception, and especially when the state was founded 62 years ago. To this day, there are many large Jewish communities that are strongly opposed to the philosophy of Zionism, to the existence of the State of Israel and to its long history of crimes against humanity. However, their voices are seldom heard, due to Zionist control over the media.

We thank you, Your Excellency Mr. President, for your efforts to help the world in general and to the Jewish people in particular. At the same time, we hope you understand the distinction between Judaism and Zionism, and that accordingly it is a mistake to think that by helping the Zionist state, one helps Jews. Since the Zionist state is forbidden according to Judaism, and since its existence brings anti– Semitism and danger upon the Jewish people worldwide, helping it is doing no favor for the Jewish people. The best way for Americans to help Jews is by following the time–honored American tradition of welcoming Jews to these shores, and granting us and all Americans freedom so that we may continue practicing our ancient religion.

Certainly, attempts at ending the bloodshed and suffering to both the Jews and Arabs are to be lauded, and in many cases embraced. Torah–true Jews are thankful for every bit of land returned to the Palestinian people. But we firmly believe that in order to bring a true and lasting peace, the two–state solution is not enough. We must accept the Almighty's peace plan for Jews in this era: that Jews in the Middle

East should go back to living peacefully as citizens of Arab governments, just as they lived for hundreds of years prior to the Zionist movement.

We condemn in the strongest language all the provocations against your honor, Mr. President. Our communities are very saddened by this. We clearly state that the State of Israel and its leaders do not represent the Jewish people.

We pray that He who spreads His canopy of peace over the world may spread it over Your Excellency and your administration, granting you long life and good health, and success in all your endeavors for the good of the American people and the whole world. May He who makes peace in His high heavens make peace upon us all, amen.

Sincerely yours

Rabbi Moshe Dov Beck, senior Rabbi

(Holocaust survivor)

Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss,

International spokesman

(Son of Holocaust survivor)

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