

Christian Coalition, ADL kiss and make up

by Jeff Steinberg and Scott Thompson

On April 3 and 4, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith held its annual National Commission meeting in Washington, D.C. at the Mayflower Hotel, and the apparent highlight of the affair was a speech by Christian Coalition executive director Ralph Reed. Both the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* covered the Reed appearance, describing it as an "olive branch" to the ADL, following a year of heated rhetoric between the ADL and the Christian right. ADL National Director Abe Foxman described Reed's speech, in which he admitted that some in the Christian right are anti-Semitic and insensitive to the suffering of the Jews over the centuries, as "a miracle."

There is obviously something rotten afoot. One clue to the sudden repair of ties between the Anti-Defamation League and the Pat Robertson apparatus appeared on the back page of the March 31, 1995 issue of *Forward*, a Zionist neo-conservative weekly newspaper in New York City. The Christian Coalition bought a full-page advertisement to publish a letter from Reed to Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.), which gave the Christian Coalition's full support to efforts to relocate the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

This "hot button" issue is one surefire way to bust up the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations for peace in the Middle East. Reed's letter referenced a recent statement issued by some Christian leaders urging the Clinton administration to take up the issue of a Palestinian right to a presence in Jerusalem.

Reed countered: "The call for a 'shared city' encourages some among the Palestinians to persist in unrealistic expectations regarding Jerusalem and it undermines the confidence of the people of Israel that they can take risks for peace because no Israeli government could ever repartition or abridge Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem."

Rebuilding Solomon's Temple

The Christian Coalition letter from Reed to Senator Dole endorsing the move of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem constitutes de facto support for "the Temple Mount crazies," an unholy combination of Christians and Jews who are prepared to resort to terrorism to fulfill the Biblical prophecy to rebuild the Temple of Solomon on

Jerusalem's Temple Mount—on top of what is today one of the holiest places in Islam, the site of the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa mosque.

Jewish Defense League members linked to the Anti-Defamation League have already been caught transporting explosives up the Temple Mount to blow up these shrines. Should the United States move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, it would give "the Temple Mount crazies" far greater leverage to demand control over the Temple Mount.

Prof. Charlie Dyer of the Dallas Theological Society, which is central to this "Armageddonist plot," confirmed on April 11 to a Washington, D.C. journalist that the Christian Coalition call "would help resolve sovereignty over Temple Mount favorably."

It was Israeli butcher Gen. Ariel Sharon who first conceived in the early-1980s of forming an alliance with the Christian right of the "Christian Coalition" variety, as part of his plan to annex the Occupied Territories. Sharon and his associates began reaching out to the Christian right. This layer became key allies of the plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa mosque to rebuild Solomon's Temple on the Mount.

Bringing on Armageddon

According to the twisted theology of the nominally Christian proponents of the Temple Mount scheme, the rebuilding of the temple would bring about the battle of Armageddon, followed by the Second Coming of Christ. Equally important in their fanatic vision, is the takeover by Israel of the Occupied Territories, *Eretz Yisrael*, which the Temple Mount crazies believe must be accomplished before the Biblical prophecy of all Jews returning to Israel would occur, as a step toward the Second Coming. Thus, the Christian right "Armageddonists" became a major new force in the West Bank settlement schemes, pouring in money and volunteers. In return, the Likud party in Israel sanctioned the building of a "Christian embassy" in Jerusalem.

In November 1982, the Anti-Defamation League and other agencies organized a tour in the United States for Prime Minister Menachem Begin, during which he spent most of his time consolidating the Christian right to this cause. Begin's trip was largely successful, and now, through the recent ADL-Christian Coalition "peace treaty," this coalition has been reestablished as an explicit anti-peace bloc.

A spokesman for Christian Coalition Executive Director Reed told a Washington-based journalist that the "coalition has not yet taken a position on the rebuilding of Solomon's Temple. In fact, Ralph Reed may not be up to speed on the issue."

However, the spokesman confirmed that Reed had proposed moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in order "to help preserve the peace of the settlers there against Palestinian terrorism."