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REFLECTIONS ON NORTHERN IRELAND -- FR. JOHN T. PAWLIKOWSKI

Attached is a copy of what I think will turn out to be a magazine piece by John Pawlikowski who recently returned from Northern Ireland after completing a study mission under the auspices of the National Catholic Conference on Interracial Justice.

While there is not much in the document dealing with Jews or Judaism, there is a reference to the positive way in which Israel handles its terrorists and also there is a notation the group did have some contact with the Jewish community in Ireland.

I do not have to tell you that the whole matter of Northern Ireland is of great concern to our friends in NCCIJ. I do not know that we can or want to become involved, but it occurred to me that the whole issue of Northern Ireland and its terrible human relations problems might be something that we should at least think about.

If we could find some positive angle, we might really be able to do some good. After all, there is a Jewish population in Northern Ireland and according to Sr. Traxler they have good credentials in both camps even though most of them are somewhat identified with the Unionists cause.

In thinking the subject through, it occurs to me that if we could find something positive to add we would not only be making a real contribution to world peace, but might institutionally add credit to the name of AJC with both Protestants and Catholics. We have yet to program in any serious way (other than in the area of Soviet Jewry-- a Jewish issue) with the NCCIJ. Perhaps something like a tri-faith conference on the human relations problems of Northern Ireland wherein we could interject our human relations expertise might be in order.

In any case, it might be a good move to write to John Pawlikowshi, commenting favorably on his report so that we could know we care about "his" problems and not only "our own."

I would be interested in your thoughts on the matter.

cc: ✓ Rabbi M. Tanenbaum; Rabbi J. Rudin; Mr. I. Terman