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CONSERVATIVE RABBIS URGED TO
MOBILIZE AGAINST MORAL MAJORITY

KIAMESHA LAKE, NY, April 27 (JTA) -- Rabbi Seymour Cohen, the outgoing president of the Rabbinical Assembly, criticized organizations within the Conservative branch of Judaism for failing to deal with a broad range of social action issues. He also urged Conservative rabbis to mobilize in opposition to the Moral Majority and particularly, Sen. Jesse Helms (R. NC), who he charged was trying to undermine the authority of the Supreme Court on such issues as bus-
ing, abortion and public school prayer.

Cohen, of Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago, speaking at the 82nd annual convention of the Conservative rabbinical group, declared that the 1,200 Conservative rabbis it represents in the U.S. and abroad, must "arouse the conscience of our people and others to fight these groups who are threatening the power of the highest judicial authority in our nation."

He noted in that connection that Helms and his colleagues and the Moral Majority among others were trying to "limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court by taking cases relating to these issues out of their hands and putting them in the state courts where more favorable decisions, from their point of view, would be attained."

Failing that, Helms and these groups are seeking a Constitutional amendment. "They are prepared to follow a variety of tactics to achieve their goals even if they change the Constitution without amending it," he said.

Cohen also took issue with affiliates in the Conservative movement who, he said "have been too quiet on the entire question of social action. The budgets we allocate for social action are extremely small," he said. "We do so because too many of our Jews do not wish to get involved... We are zealous in dealing with such problems as Israel and Soviet Jews, but in the main we have been basically quiescent on other matters," he said.

Goodman Elected Rabbinical Assembly President

Rabbi Arnold Goodman, of Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Minneapolis, was elected president of the Rabbinical Assembly, succeeding Cohen. A nationally known educator, author and authority on constitutional law, Goodman holds a law degree from DePaul University, in addition to his ordination in 1952 from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1972, during a sabbatical year in Israel, he qualified as a member of the Israel Bar Association.

For the past 15 years, Goodman has been a lecturer on Jewish Studies at the College of St. Catherine for Women in St. Paul. His articles defining various phases of constitutional law as applied to Jewish concerns regarding such themes as church and state, abortion or medical ethics have been published in journals and magazines all over the country. He writes a regular column for the Clarion, a Minneapolis weekly, and writes regularly for various local and national publications.

RABBI SAYS REAGAN'S POLICIES
VIOLATE JEWISH VALUES

GROSSINGER, N.Y., April 25 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration's domestic and foreign policies are an attempt to "turn the clock back" to the days portrayed by the late John Wayne and his Western movies, but they are con-

trary to American and Jewish values of mutual aid and compassion, the American Jewish Congress was told.

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld of Cleveland, a former president of AJCongress told more than 300 delegates to the organization's national biennial convention here that current White House policies were characterized by "rugged selfishness" and "meanness." He called the approach "antithetical to our founding vision and our basic Jewish values."

In a sweeping criticism of the Administration, Lelyveld charged in a convention keynote address that the President's program sought to "gut" the civil rights program, "pillage" natural resources and "subvert" existing environmental agencies by staffing them with appointees whose goal has been to oppose the principles and purposes of the agencies they head.

Says Foreign Policy Is Amoral Pragmatism

He also said the Administration was "chipping away" at the wall of separation between church and state through such proposals as the tuition tax credit to benefit private and parochial schools. Lelyveld continued:

"America is bold too in the amoral pragmatism of its foreign policy. Designed to protect the interests of great corporations, it is a policy that offers assistance to nations blatantly violating the human rights we pretend to cherish....

"How else explain our confused and ineffective role in El Salvador? What are the motivations for ignoring Argentina's torture, repression and innumerable 'disappearances' as we prepared to certify Argentina's eligibility on human rights grounds to receive United States arms sales -- a policy that has borne bitter fruit in the current crisis over the Falkland Islands?"

The theme of this year's AJCongress convention is, "What Kind of America Do We Want?" In his address, Lelyveld called on the organization to continue to fight for policies under which "human life will be a supreme value, in which respect for the individual will not be smothered in unfeeling bureaucratic structure, but in which the beckoning openness of an upward-moving society will be preserved and the enriching distinctiveness of diversity will be encouraged."

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THOSE
WHO DIED IN ISRAEL'S WARS
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 27 (JTA) -- More than 600 people attended last night a memorial service for the men and women who fell in Israel's wars. The "Yom Hazikaron Memorial," which is marked every year on the eve of Independence Day, was held in Town Hall and was organized by the Consulate General of Israel in New York, on the occasion of Israel's 34th anniversary.

Naphtali Lavie, Israel's Consul General, told the gathering: "Tonight we commemorate the thousands of young men and women who gave their lives for our independence and for our existence, as a free people in its own ancient land. Nearly 12,000 young men and women were lost during the wars that Israel's neighbors launched against her -- more than 6,000 of them on the Egyptian front."

Lavie underscored the great sacrifice Israel made to achieve peace with Egypt. He declared: "Let us hope that the rest of the Arab countries surrounding Israel will follow the example set by Egypt and join with Israel in searching for a peaceful solution of coexistence."

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