

NEWS from

**UNION OF
ORTHODOX JEWISH
CONGREGATIONS
OF AMERICA**



84 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011
ALGONQUIN 5-4100

Deal

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UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA

WITHDRAWS FROM INTERRELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

The Board of Directors of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America at a special meeting on Wednesday, April 19th, called to discuss the implications of Interreligious Conferences and Dialogues, decided unanimously to accept a recommendation of the officers of the organization "not to participate in, and to dissociate itself from, the Interreligious Conference scheduled to take place in Boston" on May 7th. The Conference is sponsored by the Synagogue Council of America, the National Council of Churches, and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Rabbi Joseph Karasick, UOJCA President, in announcing the unanimous decision of the Board, stated that the officers had arrived at this recommendation on March 6th, upon his proposal. In view of the importance of the issue, it was decided, however, to submit this matter to the entire Board. The motion to withdraw from the Conference was made by Harold M. Jacobs, Chairman of the Board, who relinquished the Chair in order to participate in the discussion and to move the adoption of the officers' recommendation.

The Directors of the Orthodox Union also decided not to authorize henceforth the participation by the Synagogue Council in similar conferences. As a member of the Synagogue Council of America, the Orthodox congregational body must give its consent to any such participation by the Synagogue Council. The resolution embodying both decisions reads:

"The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America shall officially notify the Synagogue Council of America as follows: The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America will not participate in, and dissociates itself from, the Interreligious Conference scheduled to take place in Boston in May under the sponsorship of the Synagogue Council of America, the National Council of Churches and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"It is the position of our Union that interreligious dialogues or colloquiums -- whether or not intended to involve inter-changes on theology or doctrine -- contribute to and are identified in the public mind with the ecumenical movement. This movement of its nature is directed to the fusion of faith communities, and is to be fundamentally differentiated from the objective of advancement of the mutual social interests of the several faith communities.

"In view of the foregoing, it is the policy of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America that henceforth it shall not authorize the participation by the Synagogue Council of America in interreligious dialogues, colloquiums or similar undertakings."

Rabbi Joseph Karasick expressed the hope that the Synagogue Council of America, too, would withdraw from the Boston Conference since it could no longer represent, at this Conference, its Orthodox components.

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