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SOME RECENT QUESTIONS

"How are Jewish day schools affected by last week's Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in private schools?"

Not at all. The supreme Court said its decision does not prevent a religious school from admitting only children of that religion. Those Jewish schools which require all their students to be Jewish do not require them to "be" anything else. How could they? Even before the disapora, we were a pretty mixed-up people, racially. Seventeen centuries ago, a noted Rabbi commented: "how do we know whence we are descended? Perhaps from those of whom it is written, 'they ravished the women in Zion'".

"How will affirmative action programs be affected by last week's Supreme Court decision outlawing discrimination against whites?"

The Supreme Court warned us that this decision should not be used to generalize too wildly about affirmative action programs. But the winds are blowing. Discrimination in hiring and firing is going to be as explicitly illegal in the case of whites as in the case of blacks. That is the single element which makes the critical difference between a worthy affirmative action program and an objectionable affirmative action program. That is the single element which makes a difference between a quota and non-quota approach to affirmative action in employment.

There are plenty of affirmative action programs without the element of anti-white discrimination; they have proved evvective and deserve strong support. It is another index to the closeness of Israeli and American values that these countries are now both engaged in the two most massive affirmative action programs in the world's history.

Of course, racial discrimination against whites has been illegal all along -- but in some cases, petty bureacrats in government and in business have found it easier to

impose a quota system than to mount a genuine affirmative action program. The last Supreme Court decision is just one indication that it will be more and more difficult for them to get away with it.

"How will growing Communist strength in Italy and other European countries affect the Jews?"

A San Franciscan visiting Rome last year was told by one active Jew: "The one thing we fear is a Communist victory. Then we may have to think of emigrating." That may be exaggerated. The Italian Communist Party makes much of the boast that it is domesticated, and independent of Moscow. But there is still some reason for the fears, based not only on the Soviet Union's enmity towards Israel -- but also on the basic antipathy of Communism towards Jews who want to remain Jews.

One day in late 1917, a Russian Rabbi went to visit the Bolshevik Minister of Defense. This Rabbi had been the Talmud Torah Teacher of that Communist Leader, Leon Trotzky, born Leibele Bronstein. The Rabbi asked his former pupil why the Yevseksiga, the Jewish section of the Communist Party, was already engaged in trying to dismantle the Jewish community, its institutions and traditions. Trotzky replied that the logic of Communism called for the Jewish people to dissolve into Communist "universalism". (read: "Totalitarianism").

"Has the organized Jewish community expressed its opposition to the repressive policies of South Africa"?

Yes, often, most recently, the Jewish community in San Francisco joined with Protestant and Catholic leadership to protest the current shocking events in South Africa. When Christian, black, and other civil leaders joined with us in Union Square last year to protest the U.N. resolution on Zionism; and when they join with us to protest Soviet oppression of Jews; they do so not as a special favor to Jews, but out of a general concern with the principle of human rights. So we join with them out of concern with the same principle as it is violated in South Africa.