

MOBILE AREA JEWISH CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE

1537 DEERWOOD DRIVE EAST  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36618



SEPTEMBER 12, 1986

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BISHOP JAMES MALONE SPEAKING AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS STATED THE FOLLOWING, AND WE QUOTE:

"ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1986 THE WORLD WAS SHOCKED BY THE ATTACK ON NEVE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY. AS THE SMALL CONGREGATION GATHERED FOR THEIR SABBATH PRAYERS OF PEACE, RUTHLESS GUNMEN OPENED FIRE WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE AT PRAYER MUST BE CONDEMNED AS A PARTICULARLY HEINOUS AND CALLOUS ASSAULT ON ALL THAT IS SACRED TO HUMANITY. THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF THE UNITED STATES JOINS WITH ITS JEWISH BROTHERS AND SISTERS MOURNING THE VICTIMS AND IN PRAYER FOR THEIR FAMILIES."

THE MOBILE AREA JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE LIKewise JOINS WITH EACH OF YOU IN MOURNING AND IN CONDEMNATION OF THESE BARBARIC ACTS OF TERROR. THUS FAR, IN THIS COUNTRY, WE HAVE BEEN SPARED THE HORROR OF RANDOM AND WANTON KILLING OF THIS SORT IN OUR CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES. IT IS NEVERTHELESS, INCUMBENT ON US TO BE AWARE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT ON THE "SMALL" INCIDENTS OF BIGOTRY AND ANTI-SEMITISM WHEN WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH THEM. RESTROOM GRAFFITI, RADIO AND TELEVISION TALK SHOW CHATTER, PREJUDICIAL STATEMENTS CLOAKED IN SUPER-PIOSITY ...ALL TELL AS MUCH AS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE NATION'S SOUL. WE CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF COMPLACENCY. BIGOTRY AND ANTI-SEMITISM ARE NOT GHOSTS OF THE PAST. IT IS NOT A JOKE. IT KILLS. IT IS A FACT ALSO THAT THERE ARE MORE JEWS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, INCLUDING ISRAEL. THE DIALOGUE, AND PARTICULARLY THE CHRISTIAN MEMBERSHIP, WISHES TO GO ON RECORD AS DEPLORING THE INCIDENT AT NEVE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE AS WELL AS THE AFOREMENTIONED "SMALLER" INCIDENTS AND FURTHER VOWS TO CONTINUE TO ARM ITSELF WITH KNOWLEDGE AND MAINTAIN VIGILANCE IN THE FACE OF THESE STARK AND TERRIBLE REALITIES. PLEASE BE ASSURED OF OUR PRAYERS AND CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO PEACE.

SHALOM

PAUL & MARY FIIBEN (for the DIALOGUE)