

recalled that the Middle East resolution of the recent World Order Conference in Cleveland, included the following sentence: "We believe that Christians must join with Muslims, Jews and others in a continuing search for just and durable peace in the area." Earlier still, in February of that year, the opening resolution passed at the annual ACPC meeting in Atlantic City was more explicit. It, too, called "for a conference of representatives of the three major religions of the Holy Land, to discuss means by which their respective interests may be furthered, spiritual goals may be protected and the cause of peace advanced."

Is it too much to hope now that these, and similar initiatives in both the Jewish and Christian communities, may eventually lead to some concrete measures in this country by one of the several church organizations interested in the Middle East? As a beginning, perhaps one of them might seek out a relationship with the new committee in Israel. We all, of course, are familiar with the difficulties, so solidly entrenched, blocking a reconciliation. Our emphasis on the political barriers between nations is understandable. But has it led us to overlook the way of religion as a path to peace, and precisely in that area where religion had its birth and today exerts such powerful claims?

Dr. Dahlberg believes it has. He has set forth his appeal, and the grounds upon which it is based, in the concluding half of his article, which we reproduce here. There is another viewpoint we would like to reproduce here as well. At one of the sessions of the ACPC Atlantic City meeting, Professor Nasrollah Saifpour Fatemi, the former Iranian diplomat, spoke on "Peace as a Concept in Islam." Both he and Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, International Relations Committee chairman of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, who represented Judaism at the meeting, laid great stress on religion as the key to peace in the Middle East. Since Islam's potential role in this respect is not so generally appreciated, we have thought it useful to follow Dr. Dahlberg's comments with extracts from Professor Fatemi's speech.

Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg*

"We should work at these problems on something other than the purely political and military level. It is not beyond possibility that the ultimate solution might be at the religious level. Religion is one of the main products of the Middle East. It is the all-powerful stream. The trouble is that it has so often been a religion of fate and hate. Muslims dismiss much of poverty and disease with the word 'Kismet!' - 'fate.' Jews, Protestants, Catholics, and Eastern Orthodox are too much occupied with ancient rivalries and traditions. Politicians play off one religion against the other.

"We would do well to consider the possibility of a series of major religious conferences in Jerusalem, including the best leadership of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, with a view to discussing the whole question of the Middle East in terms of the will of God.

"Such conferences might be extremely dangerous, there being so many

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