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**RABBIS ESTABLISH
 RELIGIOUS COURT**

**Beth Din to Deal Chiefly
 With Status of Family—
 Will Have Overseas Ties**

By IRVING SPIEGEL

The Rabbinical Council of America has placed into operation a Beth Din (court of religious law) for giving guidance in the field of marriage and family status to all Jews who require it.

Details of the project, involving the participation of prominent Orthodox rabbis, were outlined at a press conference Friday by Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, president of the council at 331 Madison Avenue.

The council, largest Orthodox rabbinic group in the country, has a membership of 750 rabbis.

The establishment of the Beth Din, with headquarters at 84 Fifth Avenue, was made possible by a grant from Gustav Stern, a Jewish Orthodox lay leader, and Mrs. Stern. Mr. Stern is chairman of the executive committee of the World Academy in Jerusalem, prominent institution devoted to all phases of religious learning.

Rabbi Rackman said that the Beth Din would be under the direction of the Council's Halacha (religious law) Commission, headed by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, a prominent Talmudic scholar and Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Joseph Weiss will serve as secretary of the court.

The Beth Din, he said, "will serve the primary purpose of meeting the domestic relations needs of Jewish families according to the tenets of the Jewish faith." He added that marriage, divorce, and counseling will constitute the "core of the court's

jurisdiction."

He explained that referrals to the court will be made by local community rabbis, adding that "the court will resolve those problems which may be beyond the power and resources of the local rabbi."

One of the principal features of the court, he said, will be the establishment of a central registry of vital statistics where a complete roster of all marriages and divorces will be recorded available to the rabbinate in every part of the world.

Rabbi Backman said the court would be in constant communication with similarly recognized institutions in Israel, Great Britain and other European countries for an exchange of opinions "to make religious rulings fairly uniform and standardized."