

RABBI ACCLAIMS GAINS IN SCIENCE

Decries 'Attempts' of Clergy
to Belittle Importance
of Space Discoveries

By IRVING SPIEGEL

Special to The New York Times.

FALLSBURG, N. Y., June 30

—A ranking Jewish Orthodox theologian and religious philosopher denounced here today what he termed the "attempts" of both Jewish and Christian spiritual leaders to berate the importance "of further scien-

tific discoveries in the atomic age."

"God did not even deny man the right to conquer even outer space," said the theologian, the Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Soloveichik. He is an authority on Jewish religious law and professor of Talmud and Jewish philosophy at Yeshiva University in New York.

His paper was delivered before 500 Orthodox rabbis attending the twenty-third annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America at the Pine View Hotel. Some 500 more persons filled the auditorium to hear the lecture.

Dr. Soloveichik, who is chairman of the Halacha [Jewish law] Commission of the Council, is generally recognized as the spokesman of Orthodox Judaism in America.

The Orthodox leader declared

that when the "psalmist spoke of the heavens belonging to God it was not for the purpose of circumscribing man so that only the earth could be his place of operation."

A 'Partner in Creation'

Judaism, Dr. Soloveichik asserted, "encourages man to be God's partner in all creation." Then he said:

"That is why Judaism never had any difficulty in permitting intensive medical research to eliminate disease and astronomical investigation to ascertain the natural laws of the spheres, even if the only practical benefit known at an earlier date was the correct establishment of calendars."

In strongly endorsing scientific research, Dr. Soloveichik, however, cautioned that "every

new discovery should only make man more humble." He said that "every time we add to the vistas of our knowledge, we increase by geometric proportions the extent of the area of the unknown."

He characterized it as "unfortunate" that "Americans in the modern age are less preoccupied with science than with pseudo-science."

Discusses Maimonides

Dr. Soloveichik's three-and-one-half-hour lecture also dealt with an analysis of the philosophy on prayer of Maimonides, the twelfth century Jewish physician and theologian.

In a report to the session, Rabbi Israel Klavan, executive vice president of the council, outlined the publication program of the council. The pro-

gram includes the publishing of five periodicals dealing with every phase of Orthodox Judaism. He said that these publications "are received with great enthusiasm by large segments of the Jewish community."

Articles from these publications, including the periodical Tradition, he reported, are being translated into Hebrew and French for "Jewish intellectual in Israel and France who are searching for religious insight in the modern age."

Dr. Bernard Lander, Professor of Sociology at Hunter College in New York, told the session that the council was committed to clarification of the Halachic [legal] and philosophical foundations of prayer and religious experience.