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By THOMAS W. NETTER Special to The New York Times

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GENEVA, Feb. 22 — Roman Catholic prelates from Poland, France and Belgium, meeting with European Jewish spokesmen here, agreed today to close a Carmelite convent at the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp within two years.

The Catholic delegation, which included the Archbishops of Paris, Lyons, Brussels and Cracow, the Polish diocese where Auschwitz is situated, will move the 10 Carmelite nuns to a new site, at an interreligious center to be built a mile or so away from the camp, according to a handwritten joint communiqué issued today after a five-hour meeting at a private chateau of Baron Edmond de Rothschild in Chambésy, a Geneva suburb.

The establishment of the convent in an unused theater just outside the Auschwitz camp in 1984 stirred dismay among Jewish groups in the United States and Western Europe, who said it was an affront to the memory of millions of Jews who died at the hands of Germans in Auschwitz-Birkenau during World War II.

Promoting Cooperation

A participant in the Catholic-Jewish talks, Theo Klein, said he believed the agreement today would help promote cooperation between the two faiths. He said the planned interreligious center would provide a place for both Roman Catholics and Jews to meditate, reflect and pray.

Mr. Klein, president of the Representative Association of Jewish Institutions in France, added, "I don't want to talk about a victory, but this is satisfying for us because what was also really at stake were the relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people, a relationship which, as we know from history, was not always easy."

Many Jewish groups in Western Europe insisted that the convent be closed to preserve Auschwitz as a monument to the mass killing of Jews. But Catholic groups, like the Aid to the Church in Distress group in West Germany, which had solicited money to renovate the convent, have argued that the Carmelite sisters were praying and doing penance for people of all faiths who died there.

The issue had provoked emotional reactions since January 1986, when the fund-raising effort drew attention to the convent. In addition to concern among Jews, some senior Catholic leaders have questioned the establishment of the convent in light of a widespread perception of Auschwitz as a symbol of the genocide of the Jews.

Canonization of Polish Priest

But they also noted that Auschwitz had taken on additional religious significance for Roman Catholics since 1982, when Pope John Paul II canonized the Polish priest, Maksymilian Kolbe, who died of starvation in an Auschwitz punishment cell in place of a married prisoner.

The name Auschwitz is generally used for a huge complex that embraced the main camp of brick barracks of the same name, the nearby camp of Birkenau, with its rows of low, hut-like barracks leading to the camp's main gas chambers and crematoriums, and a system of smaller labor camps and factories scattered throughout the region.

Many barracks at Auschwitz and Birkenau remain standing today at the Polish town of Oswiecim, which is called Auschwitz in German. In Poland, Auschwitz is maintained intact as a monument to the "victims of Fascism."

The Roman Catholic prelates at the meeting today were Albert Cardinal Decourtray, Archbishop of Lyons; Jean-Marie Cardinal Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris; Godfried Cardinal Danneels, Archbishop of Brussels, and Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Archbishop of Cracow.

The Jewish group was led by René-Samuel Sirat, the Grand Rabbi of France, and Mr. Klein and Ady Steg,

president of a committee opposing the convent.

At their earlier meeting here last July, the Catholic-Jewish group issued a joint statement recognizing the "special significance" of Auschwitz and

Birkenau to the mass murder of the Jews. The statement apparently cleared the way for the communiqué today, which resulted from negotiations between Archbishop Lustiger and Mr. Klein and the Polish Catholic Church.