

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

## SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN ISRAEL

The ceasefire in the Middle East now enters its second year—twice extended, then formally abrogated but practically continued, it is still in force. Just as a war has its own impetus and impact, so a ceasefire has its own dynamics, and the longer it lasts the more difficult, both politically and psychologically, will it be to break it. And this all the more, as no pressure is being exerted by the population of the Israel-administered territories. On the contrary, these areas, especially the former Jordanian West Bank, experience an economic boom.

Since June, 1967, their standard of living has increased by almost 50 per cent; there are no strikes and demonstrations, there is no unemployment. Of a labour force of about 100,000, more than 30,000 have been absorbed into the Israel economy. Under the Jordanian régime every year thousands of inhabitants used to migrate into the neighbouring oil-rich countries to try their luck there. Today many who, during the panic of the Six-Day War and its first aftermath left their homes, want to come back, and 70,000 Arabs have applied for visas to visit their relatives in the Israel-controlled territories during the present summer.

The Arab peasants have learnt from Israeli instructors how to increase the yield of their land through mechanisation; the town people profit from two sides—from the Israelis as well as from the Jordanians. Former civil servants still receive their monthly cheques from Amman, and so do advocates and clerks of Jordanian banks. Shopkeepers cannot complain either—they make business with the Israelis, with the well-off local population, without having cut their ties with Jordan; day after day convoys of lorries move over the two bridges across the Jordan river, full to the brim with goods, and to cope with the heavy traffic a third bridge, the Abdulla Bridge, will be opened shortly.

The almost idyllic quiet in formerly so militant places as Nablus and Hebron is by no means due to the fact that the people have learnt to love the Israelis, rather to the consideration that under the circumstances it is safer to concentrate on business. However, there are also other reasons, and they are to be found in the political disappointments which these people have experienced during the past four years. Once it was said: "Nasser is our God and Hussein our King". The God is dead and the King has gone his own ways, and since the civil war in the summer of 1970 against the Palestinian guerrillas, there has been more criticism against him than against the Israeli occupiers. Something else too has been lost with Hussein's victory: the magic attraction which the Palestinian terrorists had for the Arab youth almost everywhere. Since those

"freedom-fighters" could not stand up even to the Beduins of the little king, they have lost much of their glamour and glory. Their failure as the potential leaders of a future Palestinian State has plunged the population into a political vacuum.

Yet the dynamics of the ceasefire, with the slackening of tension and the first smell of peace, though still far, far off, have also created a new psychological situation in Israel. Problems which for two decades have lain latent, have suddenly broken through to the surface, in the first place the social problem, aggravated by ethnical differences between Sephardim and Ashkenasim, Oriental and Western Jews. When in the first few years after the establishment of the Jewish State, over one million Jews from Oriental countries came to Israel, they were housed in transit camps, first in tents and then in huts. A flat, though only of 24 square metres, which they could move into after some years of waiting, seemed like a fantastic dream and unheard-of luxury. But the feeling did not last and the fantastic dream and the unheard-of luxury turned into miserable slums. Of 95,000 Jewish families with more than four children—and most of them are Orientals—six out of ten have no bed of their own—either they sleep on the floor or several members of a family share one bed. The children have no quiet and chance to learn. Though 42 per cent of all Jewish pupils are from Oriental families, their proportion drops to one-in-ten in the higher classes—they just disappear.

### Beneath the Poverty Line

All in all, 250,000 people, i.e., 10 per cent of Israel's Jewish population, live beneath the poverty line. Nowhere in the world is social discontent divorced from political resentment, and sections of Oriental youth, enticed by the New Left, have banded together in groups like the "Black Panthers" to protest against discrimination. They forget that their parents came to the country without any means, skill, training, knowledge, money and preparation, and were, more often than not, illiterate, and that it takes a generation, if not more, to integrate into a new civilisation. And they forget something else: as 80 per cent of the entire State budget of Israel is being spent on defence, the Government is not sufficiently equipped in its fight against poverty.

Poverty in Israel, however, is not limited to the slum quarters of the cities. There is no less poverty in rural areas, and this could have even more serious consequences. A high proportion of the villages, especially the Moshavim (Co-operative villages), were set up in the first few years after the establishment of the State. This was done for three reasons: equal distribution of the population, also in

areas which were empty or inhabited exclusively by Arabs; security—to populate border districts, because in the end only a settled border area can give protection; and, thirdly, absorption of the mass immigration. In many cases, the villages were set up next to the transit camps—there was nothing, no road, no water, no electricity, and, most serious, no soil for agriculture. The men were employed by the Jewish National Fund to reclaim the land—to clear it from stone and rocks or to ameliorate it in other ways till it yielded crops.

Of 750 rural settlements in Israel, approximately 100 were set up in this manner, most of them in the hills and mountains. But only then the actual problems started. Most of these villages live on fruit growing. After a fruit tree has been planted, it needs six years before it yields fruit, then it is productive for another six years, after this it dies and the whole cycle starts all over again. In other words: villagers who live on fruit growing need more land, so that some of their orchards will always have crops. But soil improvement for a hill settlement of 50 families costs one million dollars, and most of these villages have not sufficient land.

At an income of £70 per month, a person is considered poor. Yet many of those settlers do not even reach this minimum. Most of the families have eight to ten children, and although a family needs at least 20 to 30 dunams of land for their livelihood (four dunams are one acre), in those villages there is hardly more than one dunam per person. The majority of these villages are not situated in idyllic spots, but on the border, where there is sabotage, mine-laying and murder. An example is Avivim, a village on the Lebanese border. Until a year ago no one knew its name. In Spring, 1970, the bus which, every morning, takes the children to school in the next village, struck a mine and eight children were killed. The people of Avivim who came from Morocco, where they were pedlars, shoemakers, petty artisans, are not young any more. They have large families, up to 14 persons. There are twelve families where 14 people live in small houses with no more than two rooms. The villagers live on fruit growing, but they have only six dunams per family—about half a dunam per head. And yet, only six families have left the village. But unless they get more land, i.e., soil which is made productive, most of them will pack up and leave. And this also applies to 70 to 100 other villages; 20,000 people are faced with the question of whether or not they should abandon their villages, move into the slum quarters of the big cities and become part of the urban proletariat, thus letting whole regions of the country stand empty, with ghost villages in their midst. In this year's budget the Jewish National Fund has allocated a certain sum for land reclamation in these areas, and Anglo-Jewry, through the Jewish National Fund in Britain, has made itself responsible for 33 such villages in Galilee to save them from extinction.

## AJR GENERAL MEETING

The hall at Hannah Karminski House was filled to capacity at the AJR Annual General Meeting, held on June 17. In his opening address the Chairman, Mr. A. S. Dresel, paid tribute to two Board members who had died during the past year: Dr. S. M. Auerbach and Dr. Paul Abel. He also referred to the loss sustained by the death of Professor Norman Bentwich, whose devoted and widespread activities for the benefit of our community will always be gratefully remembered. Mr. Dresel also conveyed the congratulations of the AJR to its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Werner M. Behr, who was appointed an O.B.E. for his services to the British Academy in connection with his work for the "Thank-You Britain" Fund.

Dr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the AJR, who delivered the Annual Report, stated that with the completion of the new wing of Osmond House the building programme embarked upon jointly with the Central British Fund had come to its conclusion. Altogether there are now 300 residents to be looked after in the five Old Age Homes and in the Flatlet Home (Eleanor Rathbone House). The deficit of the Homes has so far been covered by the Allocations Committee out of the recovered heirless Jewish property in Germany. However, as no further assets are to be expected the future maintenance of the homes can only be secured if the residents contribute towards their upkeep to the best of their ability in accordance with their income and capital. In assessing the maintenance contributions the financial situation of the residents' children has also to be taken into account. All Homes are fully occupied and there is a waiting list. Applicants stand a chance of comparatively earlier admission at Otto Hirsch House, situated in the beautiful surroundings of Kew and within very easy reach of Inner London.

During the past year the AJR has expanded its work for the benefit of those who are not accommodated in Homes but who, due to age, illness or loneliness also have to be looked after. A pilot scheme of a Meals on Wheels service will be started from Hannah Karminski House shortly. The membership of the AJR Club is continuing to grow. The AJR Employment Agency has been able to place a constantly increasing number of applicants, and the degree of its success greatly depends on the co-operation of our friends in business who should report any vacancies they have to offer.

The speaker also referred to the services rendered by "AJR Information", and to the efforts of the Council of Jews from Germany, of which the AJR is the British constituent, in the field of restitution and compensation.

At the end of his report the speaker mentioned three successful ventures which went beyond the day-to-day work of the AJR, but which have enhanced the reputation of the organisation. The first was the "Thank-You

Britain" Fund, which had just found acknowledgement by the award to the Chairman of its Appeals Committee, Mr. W. M. Behr. The second was the completion of the new Hillel House a few months ago. Under the auspices of the Board of Deputies all major Jewish organisations had undertaken to provide the cost for the Memorial Floor of the House. However, with one possible exception, the only organisation which had got off the ground and launched a successful appeal among its members was the AJR. Altogether, the AJR had contributed more than £4,000 to the Memorial Floor (apart from substantial contributions to Hillel House made by many AJR members in their capacity as members of the B'nai B'rith). Lastly, the AJR had done most of the work connected with the appropriate commemoration of Richborough Transit Camp, and a memorial plaque would be affixed on the wall of the Barbican in Sandwich. (A report on the unveiling ceremony is published in this issue.—Ed.) All these additional activities could only be carried out because the AJR can rely on the helpfulness of its members, and has an effective administrative machinery at its disposal.

In his financial report Dr. F. E. Falk, Hon. Treasurer of the AJR, reported that in 1970 the income from subscriptions and donations had amounted to £13,800 and the expenditure to £22,150. The deficit was covered by a payment received from the Allocations Committee out of the heirless Jewish property in Germany. The Hon. Treasurer stressed that the Allocations Committee is now faced with the need of curtailing its subsidies because it can not expect any further revenue. For this reason, and also due to the constant rise of costs, it is highly essential to increase the income from subscriptions, and the speaker appealed to all members for their voluntary co-operation. He also asked those members who are in business to place advertisements in "AJR Information", the production and despatch costs of which have grown considerably.

In the ensuing elections the nominations proposed by the Executive, and published in the June issue of "AJR Information", were unanimously adopted. This means that the members of the Executive and of the Board were re-elected and that Mrs. Ann Fleiss and Dr. Laura Stein, House Committee members of Otto Schiff House and Otto Hirsch House respectively, were co-opted to the Board.

After the conclusion of the business of the AGM, the audience had the pleasure of listening to an address by Dr. Eva G. Reichmann on the subject "Deutschland ohne Juden?" It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to have the full text of the lecture published and making it available to interested members. Mrs. Reichmann presented a stimulating and thought-provoking analysis

in masterful language, and a brief account of the contents in English cannot adequately convey its impact. The title was taken from a book by Bernt Engelmann "Deutschland ohne Juden" (reviewed in the January issue of "AJR Information") in which the author describes the contributions by Jews and people of Jewish origin to pre-Nazi Germany. At the end of his book Engelmann points out with resignation that even worse than the actual loss sustained is the fact that the average citizen of post-war Germany is not aware of it. Dr. Reichmann stated that the book's title was in so far misleading as present-day Germany is not a country without Jews, and that contrary to the reaction to the expulsion of the Jews from Spain, Jewry had not pronounced a "Cherem" of Germany. Whilst the material compensation made by the German Federal Republic was for many of us tantamount to a second life-saving action, we did not experience a general plea for return as was, for instance, envisaged in two inter-war novels, albeit of limited literary value, by Arthur Landsberger and Hugo Bettauer. Dealing with the New Left movement which, as in other countries, also exists in Germany, she expressed the view that, ideologically, a differentiation between antizionism and antisemitism was certainly conceivable, but that practically the movement was apt to attract followers whose outlook is also antisemitic.

The present philosemitism in Germany, however sincerely meant, is to be explained as an effort to overcome the trauma of the past catastrophe. Yet the Jews want neither to be defamed nor to be accorded special favourable treatment on account of their Jewishness, and the speaker expressed the hope that the stage of philosemitism will be followed by a state of ingenuous objectivity.

The upgrade trend in post-war Germany may, at first sight, give the impression that Germany could manage very well without Jews. Whilst until 1933, the Jews were pioneers in many fields of economic life, the post-war "economic miracle" was achieved without them. The actual losses are, however, in the spiritual sphere. The author and theologian, Helmut Gollwitzer, put his finger on it when he said: "We miss the criticism, and there is nobody who fights against inertia." Dr. Reichmann exemplified this *cri du coeur* by names like Heine, Boerne, Harden, Tucholsky and Freud. She also reminded the audience of Leo Baeck's description of the Jews as the great non-conformists. Under this aspect, she concluded, Germany was "without Jews" today.

### SENIOR RESTITUTION OFFICIAL RETIRES

Ministerialdirektor Dr. Ernst Féaux de la Croix, head of the department in charge of restitution and compensation matters at the Federal Ministry of Finance, attained retirement age on August 1. He had held his position for twelve years. A most capable senior civil servant, he showed great understanding for the fate of the victims of Nazi persecution and took a responsible part in the promotion of the legislative and administrative measures taken under the auspices of his Ministry.

In an interview given to the Deutschland-Berichte (Bonn) on the occasion of his retirement, Dr. Féaux de la Croix stated that, considering the unavoidable difficulties involved, the pace at which the individual claims could be settled had been satisfactory. The quota of unsettled cases under the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG) amounted to 4 per cent (150,000 cases) and under the Federal Restitution Law (BRueG) to under 20 per cent (140,000 cases). He also expressed the hope that a recently adopted new procedure would help to narrow the time gap between the increase of civil servants' pensions and the re-assessment of annuities under the BEG in accordance with these increases.

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## HOME NEWS

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

## IMMIGRATION BILL

## Clashes at B.o.D. Meeting

At a recent meeting of the Board of Deputies, members attacked their president, Alderman Michael Fidler, MP, for voting with the Government in excluding from the Immigration Bill the right to political asylum. On an earlier occasion the board had expressed its opposition to the Bill, which Mr. Fidler supported during its second reading in the Commons.

Mr. Fidler declared that he had undertaken at a meeting of the executive committee to present the board's views to the House of Commons committee and he had done so. He supported some sections of the Immigration Bill on behalf of the 75,000 people who voted him into Parliament.

## Commons Discussion

In the Commons, during a discussion on the Immigration Bill, Mr. Fidler appealed to the Government to provide firm guarantees relating to non-discrimination and political asylum, stating that these two principles were sacred and inviolable. He suggested that the right of asylum should be written into the Bill instead of being contained in regulations to be drawn up by the Home Secretary. Mr. Maudling replied that he could not agree to the inclusion in the Bill of regulations to be made under it, although Parliament would have a measure of control over the use of his powers. Mr. Stanley Clinton Davis said the Bill had been condemned, if not wholly, certainly in many material respects by the Board of Deputies.

## Lords Debate

During the second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords, Lord Ritchie-Calder levelled criticism against it on behalf of Lord Janner, a former president of the Board of Deputies, who was himself unable to attend the debate.

Lord Ritchie-Calder said that the board had expressed the view that many of the Bill's provisions were racially discriminatory. The work of those who, like the board, were endeavouring to promote good race relationships in this country would be impeded. The board were apprehensive about the creation of a patriotic and non-patriotic status, the inclusion of the members of an immigrant's family in a deportation order, and the lack of rights of appeal against a deportation order where no such rights were given in the Bill. The board regretted that the draft rules had not been incorporated in the Bill, although certain assurances had been given by the Government on the right of asylum.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, compared certain provisions in the Bill with the legal position of aliens in Israel. He asked if the board had ever reflected upon the laws of Israel whereby he himself would not enjoy the privilege given to Jews to enter the country. Racialism, however, was something different.

Lord Ritchie-Calder's intervention in the Lords' debate came after the Board of Deputies' meeting where, following criticism of Alderman Fidler, Mr. Hyman Diamond declared that the board would have to find someone in the Lords who would represent its views "without reservations."

## HAYES AND HARLINGTON BY-ELECTION

On his ninth attempt to enter the House of Commons, Mr. Neville Sandelson won the Hayes and Harlington by-election. Doubling the Labour majority to over 10,000, Mr. Sandelson has become the 40th Jewish Member of the present House of Commons.

## MPs ON SOVIET JEWRY

A motion tabled in Parliament by Mr. Greville Janner on the plight of Soviet Jewry

has been signed by more than 300 MPs of all parties and all shades of opinion. The motion deplores the refusal of the Soviet Government to permit Jews to leave the Soviet Union in accordance with recognised human rights, and its persecution of those Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel. It also comments on the Russian Government's refusal to permit Soviet Jews freely to practise their religion and to maintain their culture, and calls on the British Government to use its best endeavours and influence to secure and ensure respect for these human rights.

Mr. Greville Janner asked the Government to make representations about the show trials of Jews in Russia, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Godber, pointed out that the Soviet Union did not support the declaration when it was adopted in 1948, and it was therefore not the best basis for an approach to Russia on the matter. The Soviet Government, he said, were well aware of the British Government's views.

## BOARD AND RUSSIAN JEWS

Alderman Michael Fidler, MP, denied allegations that the Board of Deputies had failed to lead or organise the British protest campaign against the persecution of Jews in Russia. He told the board that such allegations could have been made only by those who were either ignorant of the board's activities or had themselves failed to play their full part in it.

## JDL UNWELCOME

Recently an advertisement by the Jewish Defence League appeared in the Jewish Chronicle, pledging its commitment "to go to the defence of any Jew wherever antisemitism appears". Speaking at a meeting of the Board of Deputies Mr. Victor Mishcon, chairman of its defence committee, strongly opposed an extension of the JDL's activities in Britain. He stated that the Jewish community would be "strongly advised" to make contact only with the authorised defence organisations—the Board of Deputies and the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen. If the league were to follow the example of its American counterpart, it would be not only most unwelcome, but also dangerous, Mr. Mishcon also declared that there was no room for inexperienced groups in Jewish defence work.

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## Queen Honours Ajex

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, 125 members were invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. Major H. Samek, their national chairman, and his wife, were presented to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

As part of Ajex's anniversary celebrations, a reunion will be held at the Albert Hall on November 21, at which Earl Mountbatten will be guest speaker.

## School Kosher Meals

The Kosher School Meals Service could be put out of business because more than 300 children have stopped taking the meals supplied. Nationally, almost one million children have stopped taking school meals, and this is reflected in the Jewish community. The decrease is attributed to the rise in the cost of meals as well as to transport difficulties faced by many of the children.

## United Synagogue Decline

A meeting of the United Synagogue's district council was told that there had been a "serious decline" in male membership. Last year male membership of district congregations within the US, declined by 38 to a total of 10,831.

## Barmitzvah Rules

The United Synagogues have tightened their barmitzvah rules. In future, barmitzvah boys will have to undergo a test and, if they wish to read maftir, they will have to be pupils at Jewish day schools, regularly attend Hebrew classes for at least four years, or sit for an additional examination.

Some educationists have stated that the regulations may cause parents to leave the United Synagogue and hold barmitzvah ceremonies elsewhere. Representatives of a number of London congregations have expressed opposition to the new regulations, and a West London congregation intends to dispute the decision on the ground that the views of the district synagogues were not adequately represented.

## Progressive Synagogue Anniversary

Celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the North London Progressive Synagogue included a dinner at the House of Commons, under the sponsorship of Mr. David Weitzman, QC, MP. The guest of honour was Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, first minister of the congregation. Dr. Perlzweig officiated at the synagogue's jubilee service.

## Leo Baeck College Graduates

At a service at the West London Synagogue attended by over 800 congregants, eight new graduates of the Leo Baeck College, London, were ordained. Four of the new rabbis will serve communities in Germany, France, South Africa and Holland; three will serve congregations in London; the eighth rabbi, who is a doctor of medicine, will continue his studies for a PhD.

## Holocaust Memorial

At the Warren Hills cemetery in Salisbury, a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust was consecrated. A sub-committee of the Salisbury City Council a few months ago ruled that the words "victims of the Nazi terror" could not appear on the memorial. The full council subsequently reversed the decision.

## Retirement of Dr. Walter Zander

After 25 years' service, Dr. Walter Zander has retired as Secretary of the British Friends of the Hebrew University. He will continue to serve the university as a governor. Dr. Zander, who was born in Erfurt, has been an interested member of the AJR for many years. Mr. P. D. J. Druiff, 60, a retired civil servant, has been appointed Director of the "Friends".

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Denominational Schools

Orthodox Judaism in the USA, and Roman Catholics, have always favoured State aid for denominational schools. Non-Orthodox Jews and the Protestants have opposed State aid as contravening the American Constitution, which lays down that there must be complete separation between Church and State.

The American Jewish Congress was one of a number of organisations, including civil liberties and Protestant groups, opposing State aid for denominational schools. The AJC played a prominent part in the recent Supreme Court ruling that various State programmes to aid religious schools are unconstitutional. This decision will affect Roman Catholic schools most, but yeshivot and other Jewish religious schools will also suffer. Orthodox Judaism in the USA is therefore incensed at the part played by the AJC, particularly because of the financial crisis in schools and the mounting problem of assimilation and inter-marriage.

### Liberal Rabbis Indict Zionist Bodies

Two leaders of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Liberal) have indicted Zionist bodies and the American Jewish community. Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, the president of the CCAR, and Rabbi Davis Polish, its vice-president, alleged that Zionist groups openly and officially embraced the most reactionary USA politicians who would betray Israel overnight. They also claimed that American Jewry, reinforced "by its Israeli-oriented establishment", was stifling dissent over Israel's military stance.

Mr. Arye L. Pincus, the chairman of the Jewish Agency, told the Zionist General Council in Jerusalem that there was no reason for the two rabbis to try and teach Israel what dissent was, and pointed out that pro-Moscow Communists and members of the Haolam Hazeh Party sat in the Knesset. He quoted Mrs. Golda Meir who had said "have you any liberals who can supply us with Phantoms? ... Don't preach the morality of dissent under these conditions".

In New York, Rabbi Polish said that Mr. Pincus had made his remarks "without having the benefit of a full text" of what had been said. This issue and others discussed were important, and required the complete attention of and free debate by American and Israeli Jewish leaders.

### Kahane on David Frost Show

Rabbi Meir Kahane appeared on a national David Frost show, defending the tactics of the Jewish Defence League by saying that violence was a terrible thing but was also necessary sometimes. A militant group like his, he said, "tends to serve as a catalyst, pushing moderate groups to do what they would not have done".

Mr. Dore Schary, the honorary chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who was also on the programme, declared that the JDL had attracted only a few American Jews who felt "very insecure and very frightened". The JDL's threats and violence were non-productive and counter-productive. Heckling Russian diplomats would not bring a great Power to its knees. Dr. Hans Morgenthau, professor of political science and modern history at Chicago University and New York College, said that the JDL's activities were "self-satisfying and narcissistic" and required "absolutely no heroism".

### Bomb in Soviet Mission

According to a statement released by the Soviet United Nations mission, a bomb was found and defused at its Long Island country estate. The mission attributed the placing of the bomb to Zionists. The mission's statement, equating Zionist ideology with fascist ideology, said it was based on "a doctrine of expansionism and aggression" as well as on "hatred of other nations" and advocated "the racialist doctrine of God's chosen people".

## "OPPRESSED JEWS"

The "Council of Oppressed Jewish Neighbourhoods" has been set up in New York, at a meeting attended by 70 Jews under the auspices of Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Jewish Defence League. Rabbi Kahane told the press that he and the JDL would step out of the picture once the Council had become well established.

Rabbi Kahane said that some 200,000 New York Jews, living at or below the poverty level, were not getting their share of Federal poverty relief funds. He alleged that the Federal Small Business Administration discriminated against Jews in granting loans, favouring Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and American Indians.

## ITALIAN NEO-FASCISTS

One-fifth of the Italian electorate took part in the poll for 160 town councils, including Rome, Genoa and Bari and Sicily's regional government. The neo-fascist Italian Socialist Movement (MSI), which polled 5.6 per cent of the vote in the last General Election, doubled its vote in Rome, where it was placed third after the Christian Democrats and the Communists. In Sicily it almost trebled its vote, coming second in the percentage of votes received. The MSI received the support of more than 400,000 new voters. Their campaign was totally free of antisemitic and anti-Zionist themes, but the vast majority of the Jewish electorate continued to support the moderate and progressive parties.

Two Jews, one Communist the other Republican, were elected to the Rome municipal council.

Observers in Rome have emphasised the need not to over-dramatise the neo-fascist gains. They state that the elections gave the Socialists, the Republicans and the Social Democrats a sufficient majority to ensure a continuation of the Centre-Left coalition.

## AUSTRALIA

### Recognition of Yiddish

Monash University, Melbourne, has recognised Yiddish as a qualifying language for entry. The study of another foreign language is now exempted for matriculation students from Melbourne's two Yiddish schools enrolling for an arts degree course at the university.

## ONTARIO TEXTBOOKS AND NAZI CRIMES

The findings of a three-year survey by Canada's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education appear in its report to the province's Human Rights Commission. One conclusion is that textbooks in use in public high schools in the province do not adequately present "what must be considered one of the most atrocious chapters in the history of mankind"—the Nazi treatment of Jews and other minorities. The writers stated that this issue was not even mentioned in many texts, and in many others it was treated casually. Above all, there was little or no attempt to indicate that the gas chambers and ovens were the outcome of discrimination against minorities taken to its extreme conclusion.

## HEBREW IN LATIN AMERICA

This month, Argentina's Rosario University will hold the first international conference on the teaching of the Hebrew language and culture in Latin American universities. Taking part will be seven universities which began offering Hebrew courses a few years ago.

## JAPANESE YIDDISHIST

The Israeli Government has awarded a scholarship to Mr. Kazuo Ueda, a self-taught Japanese Yiddishist, to pursue his studies in Yiddish at the Hebrew University. Mr. Ueda is a close friend of Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, the rabbi of the Jewish community of Japan.

## JEWRY IN THE EAST

### TRIALS IN RUSSIA

After two trials, one in Odessa and one in Kishinev, ten more Soviet Jews have been sent to labour camps. In Odessa, Mrs. Raiza Palatnik was sentenced to two years. In Kishinev, nine Jews were found guilty of helping to plot an abortive aircraft hijacking and stealing a duplicating machine. They received sentences ranging from one to five years. Six Soviet Jews who refused to give evidence at the Kishinev trial are themselves to be brought to trial.

Miss Ruth Alexandrovich, recently sentenced to a year's imprisonment at a Riga trial, has been moved from the Latvian capital to a distant prison. Her mother, visiting the United States, appealed to Senator Kennedy to intercede on her daughter's behalf.

The authorities refused to allow Henry McGee, a Negro American law professor, to attend the Riga trial. The professor, who had been asked by several Jewish organisations to attend, was told he could not be admitted to the court as he should have applied before his arrival in the Soviet Union.

## RUMANIA

### Commemoration of Nazi Victims

To mark the 30th anniversary of the 1941 massacre of 11,000 Jews in Jassy and neighbouring towns, more than 2,000 Rumanian Jews took part in a religious pilgrimage and memorial meetings. Representatives of the Rumanian authorities also attended the memorial service in Jassy, which was addressed by Dr. Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania.

At a public memorial meeting organised through the initiative of the State authorities, the Lord Mayor of Jassy and representatives of public institutions paid tribute to the victims.

### Relief Measures

Approximately half of the 100,000 Jews living in Rumania today are over 60 years of age, and the existing two Nursing and Old Age homes are not sufficient to meet the needs. With the financial support of the Central British Fund, a third Home with 23 beds will be opened shortly.

Altogether, the C.B.F. made new allocations totalling £51,000 to help Jews in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

## POLISH DEMOTIONS

General Mieczyslaw Moczar, the driving force behind Poland's anti-Jewish campaign of the 1960's, has been demoted. A former Interior Minister and head of the security police in Poland, he is being eased out of his position of power, although for the time being retaining his place on the Politburo. He has now been appointed chairman of the Supreme Control Commission.

Mr. Artur Starewicz, for the last eight years in charge of the day-to-day affairs of the party secretariat, is now being transferred to a diplomatic post. Although of Jewish origin, he took an active part in the anti-Jewish campaign in 1968. His demotion at this time may be an effort by Mr. Edward Gierek, General Secretary of the Communist Party, to appease General Moczar's followers. Mr. Starewicz was politically connected with the former General Secretary, Mr. Wladyslaw Gomulka, and was for a long time a target of the Moczar faction.

Some Jews still hold senior posts in the Polish Government, as distinct from the Communist Party. These include the Deputy Premier, Mr. Eugeniusz Szyr, as well as a Deputy Minister and some diplomats.

Mr. Boleslaw Iasecki, leader of Poland's fascists before the Second World War, has been appointed a member of the Polish State Council.

Gabriele Tergit

## ZUM THEMA WALTHER RATHENAU

Die Zitate, die Egon Larsen aus der Rathenau-Biographie von Berglar anführt ("AJR Information", Juni 1971), geben ein einseitiges, und daher unrichtiges Bild der Persönlichkeit Walther Rathenaus. Wie jeder von uns, so hat auch er seinen Standpunkt häufig revidiert, und neben den Aeusserungen, die auf jüdischen Selbsthass hindeuten, gibt es andere, in denen er sich ausdrücklich gegen die Rassenlehre wendet. So schrieb er am 10. 10.1917 an Karl Scheffler: "Ich halte alle Rassenlehren für Zeitspielerei und kenne nur eins, was Völker zu Nationen, Nationen zu Staaten macht: die Gemeinsamkeit des Bodens, des Erlebnisses und des Geistes." (Das ist die immer wiederholte Milieutheorie des 19. Jahrhunderts gegen die Rassenlehre der Mörder.) Oder an den Völkischen Wilhelm Schwane (16.3.1919): "Innerhalb der neuzeitlichen europäischen Bevölkerungen finden sich kaum mehr Rassenunterschiede . . . Die Germanen vom taziteischen Schlege (ungeheurer Körper, rotblondes Haar) gehören zu den grössten Seltenheiten . . . Entscheidend ist das Geistige . . . Goethe fühlte sich von allen Denkern am verwandtesten mit Spinoza, ebenso Lessing, Schopenhauer mit Buddha . . . Da ich Rasse nicht anerkenne im Sinne des Geistes, und Blut mir nur ein leibliches Element bedeutet, so kann ich keinen Rassenstolz haben. Hat man ihn, und stellt man Deutschum und Judentum gegenüber, so sollte man nicht vergessen, dass keine Stammeseinheit, geschweige denn eine so kleine, auch nur annähernd so entscheidend auf den Geist der Menschheit gewirkt hat. Moses, Jesajas, Christus, Johannes, Paulus, im Abstände Spinoza, in grösserem Abstände Marx bedeuten Wendepunkte der geistigen Menschheitsgeschichte." (Wo bleibt die Ablehnung der Juden und die 'sarkastische Ablehnung' von Marx, von denen Berglar spricht?) In dem gleichen Brief heisst es weiter: "Von allen grossen Geistern, die für die Gesamtmenschheit verantwortlich und entscheidend waren, ist, so viel ich weiss, nicht ein einziger bekannt, der in einem hellen Körper gehaust hätte. Selbst die fünf Weltheroen germanischen Gebietes: Luther, Goethe, Beethoven, Rembrandt und Shakespeare waren ausnahmslos dunkel."

Und noch schärfer an den völkischen Leutnant Breisig (1.11.1919): ". . . Sie lieben das Alte Testament und hassen—nein missbilligen—uns Juden. Sie haben recht, denn wir haben unsere Sendung noch nicht erfüllt. Wissen Sie, wozu wir in die Welt gekommen sind? Um jedes Menschenantlitz vor den Sinai zu rufen. Sie wollen nicht hin? Wenn ich Sie nicht rufe, wird Marx Sie rufen. Wenn Marx Sie nicht ruft, wird Spinoza Sie rufen. Wenn Spinoza Sie nicht ruft, wird Christus Sie rufen . . ."

Es ist auch nicht richtig, dass Rathenau mit den Antisemiten darin übereinstimmte, dass "die Verjudung des öffentlichen Lebens" verhindert werden müsse. Er hat nur, wie auch Moritz Goldstein in seinem berühmten Aufsatz im "Kunstwart", beängstigt die Gefahr gesehen. Die Juden waren wohlhabend und spielten eine grosse Rolle im geistigen Leben. Jeder von uns weiss, was für eine Rolle die Angst ("Das macht Antisemitismus") damals gespielt hat, von jüdischen Namen in Prozessberichten bis zu Brilliantringen, von laut Sprechen bis zur Existenz jüdischer Sozialisten. Rathenaus Schriften und Goldsteins Aufsatz sind uns heute peinlich, aber die Schuld bei sich selbst zu suchen, die Geisselung der eigenen Schwächen, ist grösste jüdische Tra-

dition von den Propheten bis Scholem Alechem. Sie wird angstlos und selbstbewusst und imponierend in Amerika fortgesetzt.

Was Rathenaus Assimilationsverlangen (nach Berglar "vollständig und bedingungslos") angeht, so hat er im Gegensatz zu vielen deutschen Juden, die ihr Judentum verbargen oder verleugneten, sei es als Aspiranten der Oberklasse oder als Kommunisten, und denen, die sich taufen liessen, nichts von alledem getan. Er lehnte es ab, "den kirchenlosen Glauben des Judentums zu verlassen". An Frau von Hindenburg, die ihm ebenfalls die Taufe vorschlug, schrieb er: "Wenn auch ich und meine Vorfahren nach besten Kräften unserm Lande gedient haben, so bin ich, wie Ihnen bekannt sein dürfte, als Jude Bürger zweiter Klasse. . . . Durch einen Glaubenswechsel hätte ich mich den Benachteiligungen entziehen können, doch hätte ich hierdurch nach meiner Ueberzeugung dem von den herrschenden Klassen begangenen Rechtsbruch Vorschub geleistet." (12.12.1917.) "Das Ziel sollen nicht imitierte Germanen sondern deutschgeartete und—erzogene Juden sein", sind seine Worte. Wer würde es wagen, sich darüber zu mokieren, wenn man amerikanisierte oder amerikanisch erzogene Juden wünscht.

Walther Rathenau hat grosse und bewegende Worte über das Judentum gefunden, er hat Marx den Grössten zur Seite gestellt, er hat wiederholt den Rasse—und Blutaberglauben bekämpft, er hat prophetische Einsichten gehabt. Wie sehr viele Grosse hat er sich oft gewandelt, hat zum Beispiel den Bolschewismus bewundert und ihm 1920 die Weltherrschaft in 100 Jahren vorausgesagt. Was soll das, einen unserer Grossen als eine Art von Nazi herabzusetzen?

## JEWS IN GERMANY

## Latest Figures

According to statistics published by the Central Jewish Welfare Agency in Frankfurt, there are 26,589 members of the Jewish communities in West Germany and West Berlin. The West Berlin community totals 5,390 members. Frankfurt with 4,783 and Munich with 3,590 members respectively, come next.

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## Old Acquaintances

**Obituary:** The death has occurred in Hollywood, after a long illness, of Ernst Verebes, the well-known pre-1933 comedian of stage and screen. The Hungarian-born good-looking young actor worked as a taxi driver in Los Angeles until a stroke paralysed him. He was married to one of the Schoop dancing sisters of Friedrich Hollaender's Tingeltangel cabaret in Berlin.—Mafalda Salvatini, the brilliant world-famous opera singer, has died in Lugano. She retired early after her marriage to a Baltic diplomat; her son, Rolf Gerard, is a successful painter and stage designer at the New York Metropolitan.

**Germany:** Paula Wessely and Hans Jaray appear in Molnar's "Olympia" at Hamburg's Thalia.—Roma Bahn, the original Polly in the "Dreigroschenoper", will take part in Patrick's "Eine sonderbare Dame" in Wilhelmshafen.—Paul Abraham's "Ball im Savoy" will be revived on TV.—Wertheim, Berlin's once well-known department store at Potsdamer Platz, will be rebuilt at the Kurfuerstendamm between Joachimstalerstrasse and Cafe Schilling at a cost of 100 million DM.—Elisabeth Bergner starred in O'Neill's "Alle Reichtuemer dieser Welt" in Hamburg.

**Milestones:** Albert Lieven, who began his career in films directed by Ludwig Berger, has turned 65 years of age. After receiving the Goebbels Prize for his part in the "Reifende Jugend", he left Germany because he was married to a Jewish actress, Tatjana, now a TV producer in London. In this country he succeeded Walter Rilla in "Victoria Regina" and quickly became a star of stage and screen. He returned to Germany a few years ago to resume his career there.—Jenny Jugo, who made a name for herself in the film based on Sternheim's "Die Hose", and who was the first Eliza in the "Pygmalion" film, is also 65. She retired 20 years ago and now lives in Schoenau (Bavaria).

**Thirty-one Years On:** Do you still listen to the radio? If not, you will have missed a very interesting and important broadcast on BBC 4 entitled "Something in Common—A Talk by Three Refugees", recalling their interment in this country in 1940. The three were Heinrich Fraenkel, who started his first book, "Help us Germans to Fight Hitler", on the Isle of Man, and who is now Assiac of the New Statesman and co-author with Roger Manvell of several biographies of Nazi leaders; Fred Uhlman, the former lawyer, and now a painter, from Stuttgart; and Hans Jaeger of Club '43, brilliant journalist and lecturer. All three recalled the spirit in which in those dangerous weeks the measures against victims of Nazism were quickly changed. Listeners were reminded of the irony that 31 years ago refugees were classed as "enemy aliens".

**Home News:** Marlene Dietrich will give her one-woman show on September 15 at Drury Lane in aid of the Association of Mental Health.—Ken (Klaus) Adam is designing the décors for the new James Bond film currently in production, "Diamonds are Forever".—Willi Frischauer has been commissioned to write the biography of film director Otto Preminger.—Tom Kempinski, seconded by Colin Redgrave, at an Equity meeting proposed a general actors' strike to protest against the Industrial Relations Bill, but the motion was defeated.—Wanda Rotha received an option for Zuckmayer's "Barbara Blomberg", adapted for the English stage by Wolf Frees.

PEM

C. C. Aronsfeld

## ON A HOLIDAY IN SPAIN

I spent my holiday this year in San Sebastian, on the Basque coast of Spain. Some of my friends did not think much of the choice. Spain, to them, was a fascist country ruled by a friend of Hitler. They would not admit that things might have changed in the course of a generation—for the worse, yes, as in Russia, but not for the better, as, possibly, in Spain.

And yet things have changed, slowly perhaps, and in no very conspicuous ways. There still is repression (of which the militants of Basque nationalism, for one, are a witness), but there also is a certain amount of freedom. "Das Kapital" is prominently on sale in Spanish bookshops; the censorship does not frown on Freud or Bertrand Russell, and many of the best Western writers today are freely available in translation. I stress this traffic in ideas because ideas are the seeds and harbingers of action and in time the effects of the Civil War may yet be undone.

General Franco, for all the enthusiasm he still officially arouses, is on the way out and when power is assumed by the Prince of Spain, now generally featured as the coming head of State, a new and better order may well become more plainly visible. Certainly, even now, the small Jewish community is no worse off than the rest of the people, and the only Jew in San Sebastian I know of is plying his trade not only unmolested but proudly showing the flag of his Hebrew convictions.

I had found the name and address of Senor Martin Othiaz in the Jewish Travel Guide and he jovially welcomed my wife and me in his little health foods shop just off the fashionable Avenida de Espana. Among the first things that struck us were, close to a J.N.F. box, two blue and white notices: Shalom al Yisrael and Bruchim Haba'im.

The sturdy little man, with his cloth cap and mariner's sweater, would have made an appropriate figure down in the picturesque harbour. He lost no time in asking me a number of searching questions designed to establish my authenticity: where exactly did I come from? Was I born in England? What did my name really mean? Did I go to shool regularly? How good was my Hebrew? When I tried to reciprocate the capital interest by making a very general enquiry concerning his affairs, he, in traditional Jewish fashion, countered with a question, this time addressed to my wife: was it a habit of mine to institute Gestapo-like investigations?

However, now he was set to unfurl his colours in style. For a start, his name was not Martin, but Moshe, and Othiaz was the Spanish version of some sort of more Ashkenazi designation. He hailed from S.W. France, not very far away, and he was still travelling regularly on business to Bayonne. He archly confided to us that he possessed an "international passport" and to prove it he pulled out—his tsitsit!

He was pleased to see that his little joke went down so well, and he now produced from under his sweater further tokens of his identity—a golden chain with two Maginei David and one mini-sefer Torah. With the same magic touch he produced a similar chain from under the pullover of his rather meek-looking elderly assistant, who was presented to us as a Hebrew Basque.

This—with its quite anachronistic suggestion of a Marrano atmosphere—would have

been quite enough to reveal both master and servant as some of the more unusual members of the House of Israel, but Senor Othiaz would not yet rest content. He hurried into a back room and emerged with a huge batch of assorted Jewish magazines, mainly the French Tribune Juive and L'Arche, which appeared to be his staple (health) food, but also odd Israeli and New York ones and Spanish-language specimens from Latin America. Not all seemed to have been thoroughly perused, but the whole performance, as a demonstration of cultural interest, was truly overwhelming. He legitimately wondered whether I had ever seen anything like this before and had every reason to feel confident that no Jewish health store in England (if any) could compete with him in this respect.

Speaking of England, he remarked he had heard that in our country there were Jews who were not Zionists; he could scarcely credit this. He thought that today every Jew must be a Zionist; also he would hear of no "fancy distinctions," such as Ashkenazim and Sefardim; they—we—were all one. He himself (he said) was the representative of the Jewish Agency in this part of the world. Not exactly in San Sebastian, where no Jews could be found (except some who had been baptised). But his writ ran as far afield as Biarritz and Bayonne, where, in fact (he said), he functioned as Mohel and Shochet, and no doubt he will officiate at a Batmitzvah in Bayonne to which he was ceremoniously invited.

It was now time for us to go, and in true Biblical manner he would not let his guests depart without showering on them some of his choicest merchandise, including a packet of Matzot, "La Bienfaisante," made by S. Bitone in Agen, Lot & Garonne, France, "according to formulas used in Algeria."

Though it is still rather early for Pesach, we shall do our best to keep this little gift in memory of our visit to San Sebastian.

As we came out of Senor Othiaz's shop, I noticed a glaring Magen David on the latest posters of La Actualidad Espanola, one of the biggest Spanish illustrated magazines, announcing an article about "The Spanish Jews." It was actually a series of articles on the Sefardim of Salonika, Turkey and Israel, written by two outstanding Spanish publicists, José Luis Herrero and Joaquin Bordiu, editor of Actualidad Económica and reputed to be an expert on Jewish affairs.

The first article told at great length the story of the Nazi persecution in Greece, and an introduction pointed out that Spaniards knew far too little about "the descendants of those Jews who, nearly 500 years ago, were forced to leave their homes in our country." The present series would describe what, "on the quiet", Spain had done during the Hitler war to save Jews, but this, it was explained, was in no way intended to minimise the "grave errors, injustices and cruelties" which Spain had once committed against the Jews. Nobly said, I thought. Unfortunately the praiseworthy declaration was not allowed to stand undisfigured; it was daubed with the sorry argument that Spain was not alone to blame: all countries had been guilty at one time or other, even little Israel was no exception. . . . As if there could be, in fact and fairness, any kind of comparison.

### Links with Salonika

However, a glowing testimonial was obtained from some of the survivors in Salonika, where the grand old man, Nehama, the historian of the community, now nearly 90, confessed that "nowhere did he feel more thoroughly at home than in Spain", and he criticised the old country for failing to keep in touch, so that, while they still spoke the medieval language, Ladino, they knew next to nothing about the new Spain.

This point conveniently enabled the writers to suggest that here was an opportunity for an "extension of cultural propaganda". At the same time, they realised that among those in Salonika who had been given Spanish passports by the Franco regime during and shortly after the war, there are "many whose heart is not in Spain, but in Israel".

This, incidentally, was not the only reference to Jews in the finely produced magazine. An article on the thriving city of Ceuta, in Spanish Morocco, displayed over the best part of a whole page the apparently super-modern interior of the synagogue, "Bet El", which was solemnly opened as recently as last March in Sargento Coriat Street, named after "a Jew who gave his life for Spain in a military action". The Jewish community here, we learn, traces its origins far back into the Middle Ages and now, "living in harmony with the rest of Ceuta's citizens, constitutes a live force in the socio-economic development of the Spanish zone".

Quite obviously there is life here, on the other side of the Straits of Gibraltar. Spain itself, so far as Jews are concerned, appears to be what it has been for the past 100 years or more, a museum rather than a living thing, and from this point of view it was perhaps significant that a few weeks ago a Sefardi Museum was opened in Toledo, at a ceremony graced by the presence of a Spanish Government Minister, a representative of the World Sefardi Federation, the Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, and many other worthies, both Jewish and Spanish.

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Nelly Engel

# A JEWISH AUTHOR REMEMBERED

## Biography of Ernst Sommer

In a recent book Dr. Vera Machakova-Riegerova, a grand-daughter of the well-known Czech politician Frantisek Ladislav Rieger and a lecturer at the Karl Ferdinand University in Prague, drew attention to the significance of the Jewish author Ernst Sommer who was born in Czechoslovakia in 1888 and died in London in 1955. The 120-page monograph, written in German, has been published by Universita Karlova, Prague (price Kcz 20). It combines a description of Ernst Sommer's life with a thorough analysis of all his works.

It is astonishing to see how this scholar who never met Ernst Sommer, has been able to create a picture of his life from studies of his works and his letters to friends and colleagues (which she frequently quotes), a picture which shows profound understanding of his inner struggles and difficulties. After all they are separated by more than a generation, and nationally, religiously and linguistically she belongs to a different world.

At the same time, this biography also represents a piece of contemporary history inasmuch as Sommer shared the fate of so many Jewish men and women who grew up in the continent of Europe; they were educated in the German language, felt deeply rooted in the physical and spiritual atmosphere of their environment (the author repeatedly emphasized his feeling of belonging to his Czech homeland), and were dismayed by realising that they were suddenly impecunious refugees in an alien country which they did not understand.

### Jewish Values Regained

According to Mme. Machakova-Riegerova, Sommer found self-adjustment even harder than the adjustment to the world outside. Originating as he did from a comfortably-off Jewish small-town family which had largely lost the values of Judaism both in religious and national respects, he was led back by his experience in the outside world to his Jewish origins. This was bound to be a convulsive experience for a hyper-sensitive intellectual.

In Sommer's case the effect of his experience was that he devoted the first years of his exile in England almost entirely to the study of Judaism and thus to spending most of his time in the Reading-Room of the British Museum.

The result of these studies found its expression mainly in two of his works whose fate was very different. One was a novel entitled "Hillel" which was left behind in manuscript form. Sommer called it his "child of sorrows," probably because he felt that he had not completely succeeded in his intention of bringing the figure of the Jewish sage as saviour of the Jewish community home to the present generation. The other, "Die Revolte der Heiligen", became his most-read book. It went into many editions (the last one published by the Greifenverlag in 1970) and was translated into most European languages. This was so because, as the "Sozialistische Nachrichten" pointed out, it was regarded as being the first, almost prophetic, work to project the Nazi mass murder of defenceless human beings in all its human and psychological enormity into the imagination of our, so different, ideological world. Sommer once wrote to the author of this review: "I think that Jewish readers, in particular, will welcome a book

which does not preach terror, but resistance to it, and which calls upon suppressed and suffering Jewry to render brute force impotent by an appropriate counter-force."

Apart from poems, book and theatre reviews, and journalistic work, Sommer published 15 books which can largely be described as historic novels. "Die Tempel", "Botschaft aus Granada", "Villon, Bild einer Zeit und eines Menschen", "Ein Moench aus Touraine, Bildnis des Dr. Franz Rabelais", "Das Leben ist die Fuelle, nicht die Zeit" are titles which will arouse memories in many a reader.

Dr. Machakova-Riegerova's work, admirable both from the point of view of literary history and psychology, may perhaps encourage future scholars to study Ernst Sommer's works and thus the history of the mentality of his times. At any rate, the friends of historical books and lovers of beautiful, lucid German which frequently rises to monumental heights of expression, will glean pleasure and stimulation when reading Ernst Sommer's novels.

H. W. Freyhan

## PAST HARMONY

### Music in Berlin Houses

Musicians and music lovers of Central European origin who have settled in this country cannot fail to realise that musical life in Britain, in spite of many differences, has yet a good deal in common with that of their native countries. There is common ground in the "do it yourself" approach, the enthusiastic amateur music making which even the abundant supply of "canned" music through the mass media of television, radio and gramophone has not been able to wipe out altogether. Informal domestic musical activities as well as concerts in private surroundings, *Hauskonzerte*, continue to be an indispensable feature of our musical civilisation, both in Britain and in Central Europe.

In an attractively produced and well illustrated little volume, *Karla Hoecker* traces the history of private concerts in Berlin from their eighteenth-century beginnings to the present time.\* Her narrative, somewhat loosely constructed, gains in impact and spontaneity by the inclusion of many eye- and ear-witnesses' reports—past and present—which she has been able to collect. A strict scholarly study has not been aimed at, but the author's warm-hearted approach, based on personal experience and active participation, offers ample compensation.

Former Berlin residents are likely to come across many familiar names in these pages, notably so in the later chapters which extend from Joseph Joachim's last years to Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. Among the violinists, we meet Gerhart Hauptmann's wife Margarethe and Albert Einstein ("Albert uebt schon"; his wife said reassuringly over the phone); the accompanists include Alfred Kerr, in Wolf songs, and Arthur Schnitzler, in Brahms. Going back to the end of the last century, we find Siegfried Ochs, the unforgettable, at the start of his career; he had left the *Hochschule*, then under Joachim, because he preferred

\* *Karla Hoecker: Hauskonzerte in Berlin*. Rembrandt Verlag, 1970. DM 12.80.

Wagner to Mendelssohn and was refused opportunities for conducting practice. He was present at a private concert at which Grieg and Tchaikovsky played, each accompanying the other's songs.

The former integration of Jews in the cultural life of the German capital was too conspicuous to be overlooked, but it is to Karla Hoecker's credit that this aspect has been given its full due. Her own association with circles which retained their integrity under Nazi rule is symptomatic, and it is therefore not surprising that her chapter *Im Schatten der Politik* tells not only of continuous musical contact and collaboration with "unwanted" artists after 1933 but also seeks to cover the purely Jewish cultural activities which were sponsored by the *Kulturbund* and the *Kuenstlerhilfe der Juedischen Gemeinde*. These activities included regular private concerts—*Hauskonzerte*—at the home of Frau Weil and many others. (It is good to know that Frau Weil, who was responsible for the majority of these concerts, survived the war in Germany and could resume her concerts, after 1945, free of Gestapo control.) Hede Tuerk Boernstein, the excellent soprano, (now in Israel), tells of the initial Jewish private concerts and the gradual inclusion of Jewish songs in the repertory.

As music critic of the *C. V. Zeitung*, I attended most of these concerts which provided support for Jewish musicians and, at the same time, helped to sustain the morale of a persecuted community. The special circumstances under which these concerts had to be organised have made it difficult for the author to assemble all the necessary data; her suggestion that this subject merits a special study deserves attention from organisations like the Leo Baeck Institute. The Berlin Jewish Press of the period should prove a useful source of information.

### Jewish Participation

Jewish participation is first mentioned in the list of members of the *Convente*, concerts which were held in the early nineteenth century at the house of Friedrich Parthey. He was the son-in-law of F. C. Nicolai, the bookseller and friend of Lessing and Moses Mendelssohn. Nicolai himself had started a series of concerts at his house in the *Bruederstrasse* (later the *Lessing Museum*), and this house remained also the meeting-place of the *Convente*, "Veranstaltungen (an denen) sowohl aktiv wie passiv, Mitglieder des musikinteressierten Adels und der Universitaetskreise, der juedischen Intelligenz sowie junge Studenten und Offiziere teilnahmen". "Entscheidend war die Leistung des Mitwirkenden, nicht sein gesellschaftlicher Stand."

A whole chapter is given to the Mendelssohn family, whose musical activities continued into the present century. Much of the information may be familiar, but I had not come across the story of a concert at Fanny's house in 1843 at which Felix partnered the twelve-year-old Hungarian violinist Joseph Joachim in Beethoven's *Kreutzer Sonata*. Afterwards, Schumann sat next to the boy. Andreas Moser (later a member of the Joachim Quartet) reports: "Da beruehrte Schumann, der lange schweigsam dagesessen hatte, leise das Knie seines kleinen Nachbarn, und mit der Hand auf den Sternenhimmel deutend, sagte er in seiner unnachahmlich guetigen Weise: 'Ob wohl da droben Wesen existieren moegen, die wissen, wie schoen hier auf Erden ein kleiner Junge mit Mendelssohn die *Kreutzer-Sonate* gespielt hat?'"

That was in 1843. A hundred years later, things were very different. . . .

# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## SOUTH AFRICA RETALIATES

As already reported in our previous issue, the South African Government has retaliated against Israel's offer to give a small quantity of medical supplies to the Organisation of African Unity. Israel's embarrassment has been increased by the fact that leading OAU spokesmen have rejected the offer.

The transfer to Israel of funds collected by South African Jewry for the Israel United Appeal has been suspended. Dr. N. Diederichs, the Finance Minister, announced that the ban would remain until Israel's attitude towards South Africa had been made clear. The sum involved is believed to total £5 million. South African Jewry is among the most generous in its contributions to Israel.

A 15-strong South African Maccabi cricket team will visit Israel in September as guests of the Israel Cricket Association. They are playing eight matches there and will be accompanied by about 30 supporters. A small group of members of the Israel Cricket Supporters' Association in Britain will come to Israel specially for the three week tour.

## CARLO SCHMIDT'S VISIT

A parliamentary delegation, headed by the Vice-President of the Bundestag, Professor Carlo Schmidt, recently paid a visit to Israel. In an interview he gave after his return to the editor of the Deutschland-Berichte (Bonn), Professor Schmidt stressed how deeply he was impressed by the progress made since he had seen the country last four years ago. He especially referred to the development in housing and industry. In the course of his discussions with Israelis, Professor Schmidt stated, he was frequently asked about the attitude of the German people in the light of the past terrible events which had left their indelible mark on the history of the Jews. He went on: "People in Israel have, not forgotten either that there were also times when the relationship between Jews and Germans was a most fruitful one. I noticed that they begin to realise that the role played in Israel by Jews who had been brought up within the orbit of German culture has been most beneficial and useful. This was not always recognised".

## BRITISH SETTLERS

A booklet published by the Anglo-Israel Association called "British Settlers in Israel" analyses a questionnaire sent out to British Jews who have settled in Israel. Of the 18,000 or so British settlers, the great majority live in Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv. The 1,500 to 1,800 kibbutzniks of British origin all belong to the twelve kibbutzim almost entirely made up of British settlers or have a substantial British element among their members. The majority of British immigrants have their friends among other English-speaking immigrants.

## PROMINENT IMMIGRANTS

A leading Soviet-Jewish orientalist, Professor Mikhail Zand, arrived in Israel to take up his appointment at a university there.

A one-time leading Polish-Jewish Communist, Mr. Hersh Smolar, has also arrived in Israel have not forgotten either that there Warsaw Yiddish newspaper, Folks-Sztyne, and lost his job with the paper in 1968, during Poland's anti-Jewish campaign.

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## COMPENSATION FOR EAST JERUSALEM ARABS

The Israeli Minister of Justice, Mr. Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro, announced at a press conference that Israel would pay compensation to Arab residents of East Jerusalem or for immovable property they owned in West Jerusalem or elsewhere in Israel and which they abandoned before or during the establishment of the State. About 10,000 claims would be involved and the cost to Israel would be an estimated minimum of £40 million. Larger payments would be made by way of bonds to be issued in 1975 and redeemable in 20 equal annual instalments, but smaller sums would be paid outright. Israel will add 25 per cent to the 1947 valuation of the property concerned.

One Arab said that he hoped the assessments would be changed to something more reasonable. Anwar Khatib, a former Jordanian governor of East Jerusalem, declared: "The law violates United Nations resolutions on Arab refugees, which offer the right of compensation or repatriation. It aims at dividing Arab Jerusalemites from their people by offering ridiculous compensation, and I hope no one will be tempted". A former Jordanian official expressed the view that many people would file claims, despite the fact that this would anger the Arab States. "The act of making a claim means signing a private peace treaty with Israel, and would cause the severance of personal relations with the Arab States of such claimants".

## DEFENCE FORCES' CHIEF RABBI

Brigadier-General Mordecai Piron has been appointed Chief Rabbi of the Israel Defence Forces, succeeding Major-General Shlomo Goren, who has been installed as Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Piron was born in Vienna in 1921 and settled in Israel in 1938. He obtained a master's degree in the humanities at London University, and is the author of several books.

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## GUTENBERG PRIZE FOR ISRAELI

This year's Gutenberg Prize was awarded to Mr. Henri Friedlaender, Head of the Hadassah School of Printing in Jerusalem. The prize, which carries a monetary value of DM20,000, was endowed by the Municipality of Mainz and the Gutenberg Society on the 500th anniversary of the death of Johannes Gutenberg in 1668 and is awarded every third year for "outstanding technical, artistic and scholarly achievements in relation to the invention by Johannes Gutenberg". The appointment of Henri Friedlaender as the second recipient of the Prize is at the same time a tribute to the revival of the Hebrew language. Friedlaender was born in 1904 in Lyon as the son of an English-born mother and a German-born father. The family moved to Berlin when he was six and he attended the Mommsen-Gymnasium, where he passed his "Abitur". After the completion of his graphic apprenticeship he worked for several German firms, including Jakob Hegner and the Insel-Verlag. In 1932 he went to Holland, where he had to go into hiding during the occupation period. After the war, he settled in Israel. He created modern Hebrew printing designs and has also several publications to his credit, including one about "Die Geschichte des Hadassah Hebraeisch" (Hamburg 1967).

## GERALDINE CHAPLIN ON LOCATION

Geraldine Chaplin, daughter of Charlie Chaplin, was in Israel filming a Western, called "Carlos"; the production is a joint Israeli-West German film.

## BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Poems By Lola Landau

The recently published collection of poems by Lola Landau ("Noch liebt mich die Erde", Hohenstaufen-Verlag, Bodman/Bodensee, 70pp, DM 11.80) gives artistic expression to a fate which is typical of many former German Jews. Born in Berlin as the daughter of the well-known gynaecologist, Theodor Landau, the authoress had already established a name for herself when the Nazis came to power. For many years she was married to the writer, Armin T. Wegner, one of the most courageous anti-Nazis. In 1936, she emigrated to Palestine where she first had to struggle very hard. Only a few years ago did it become possible for her to resume her literary activities which earned her wide recognition.

The poems published in the collection are grouped into four sections, the third of which, "Unterwegs", will be particularly appealing to readers of this journal. Contrary to some former refugees who only live in the past, and to others who in their zest for assimilation try to suppress the past, Lola Landau has come to terms with the vicissitudes she had to experience like the rest of us. She does not belittle the hardship of emigration, but she has an open mind for the new values by which her life has been enriched. The poems are written in a beautiful style.

In the postscript Lola Landau acknowledges the indelible impact which the German culture and language have made on her, and at the same time gratefully describes her life after emigration to the land of Israel as "a kind of rebirth".

W.R.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## MR. JACK RAPHAEL

It is learned with deep regret that Mr. Jack Raphael (Ramat Chen, Israel) who frequently contributed articles to this journal, died in his 74th year. Prior to his emigration he was a teacher in the Jewish community of Beckum (Westphalia) and also actively associated with the work of the Federation of Jewish Youth Organisations ("Neutraler Verband"). Before he went to Israel, Mr. Raphael spent several years in this country where he worked for industrial periodicals. Jack Raphael's scholarly work was particularly valuable in the field of Heine research. He discovered and interpreted a great amount of so far unknown material about the poet and his family. At the time of his death he was deeply immersed in this work, and we can only hope that the material collected by him but not yet published will be made available to readers with the help of other experts. It so happened that only last month an article by him appeared in this journal which testified to his untiring spade work. His death is a grave loss to German-Jewish historiography.

## PROFESSOR W. M. SIMON

Professor Walter Michael Simon, Professor of History at Keele University, died at the age of 49. He was born in Berlin. After having spent the years from 1936 to 1940 at Rampton School, he went to the United States. In 1943, he joined the army and was on active service in Germany. From 1949 onwards he held appointments with universities in the U.S., but he returned to England in 1965 to become head of the history department at Keele. Professor Simon's works include: "Germany: a Brief History", "The Failure of the Prussian Reform Movement, 1807-1819", and "Germany in the Age of Bismarck".

## DR. MAX AUERBACH

The lawyer, Dr. Max Auerbach, recently died in his 84th year after a long illness. Prior to his emigration he was a well-known and respected member of the Berlin Bar, and he continued to work in the legal sphere after he had settled in this country in 1936. He also took a leading part in the work of the Anglo-German Lawyers Association, for some time as its chairman, and he was actively associated with the British group of former F.W.V. members. Dr. Auerbach joined the AJR immediately after its inception, when many of those refugees who had come to this country before the November 1938 events still stood aloof. He will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him.

## MR. MAX MEYER

Mr. Max Meyer, Hon. President of the Frankfurt Jewish community, died in his 87th year. A survivor of the Theresienstadt concentration camp, he took a leading part in the re-establishment of the Jewish community after the war and served it for many years as its chairman and Board member. In 1956, he was awarded the Frankfurt Municipal Plaque of Honour. Born in Limburg, Mr. Meyer had spent most of his life as a fur merchant in Frankfurt.

## LUBAVITCHER REBBE REMEMBERED

The memory of Rabbi Joseph Schneerson, the former Lubavitcher Rebbe who died in 1950, was revered by 3,000 Chasidim. At Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway Synagogue the present Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, spoke from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. about his late father-in-law's courage.

## MUNICH COMMEMORATES JEWISH AUTHOR

More than 100 translations by Alexander Eliasberg were shown in the Bavarian State Library. Eliasberg (born, 1878, in Minsk and died, 1914, in Berlin) had lived for 17 years in Munich. He translated Russian literature from Pushkin to Ilya Ehrenburg into German. He also took a deep interest in the culture of Eastern Jewry, and his German translations of classical Yiddish works are equally outstanding. The Exhibition also included drawings, aquarelles and etchings by Paul Eliasberg, the son of Alexander Eliasberg, who has lived in France since 1926.

## MAX BROD PLAQUE IN PRAGUE

A memorial plaque, in tribute to Max Brod in interpreting the works of Franz Kafka and contributing to the world-wide promotion of Czech culture, was recently unveiled on the Jewish cemetery in Prague. The bronze plaque has been affixed on the cemetery wall confronting the tomb of Franz Kafka. On the same day, a memorial stone for the blind Jewish poet and writer Oskar Baum was unveiled on the Prague cemetery.

## ANNE FRANK DIARY

### British Paperback Reaches Million

"The Diary of Anne Frank" has sold one million paperback copies in Britain and the Commonwealth. This distinction is shared by only four authors, including Ian Fleming of James Bond fame.

The publishers, Pan Books Ltd., presented the Golden Pan Award to Dr. Otto Frank, Anne's father. At the presentation held in London, he recalled that over ten million copies of the diary had been sold throughout the world, the royalties of which had been used, among other things, to sponsor 14 scholarships in Israel.

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# RICHBOROUGH CAMP MEMORIAL

## Unveiling Ceremony in Sandwich

On June 20 the plaque in memory of Richborough transit camp affixed on the wall of the Barbican in Sandwich was unveiled. The ceremony was attended by about 100 former camp men and their families. The guests of honour included the Mayor and Mayoress of Margate, members of the late Professor Norman Bentwich's family and several former officers of the Pioneer Corps stationed at Richborough. Messages were received from Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen and Lord Reading, whose deceased fathers had taken a leading part in the work for Richborough Camp. The ceremony was also attended by a great number of residents of Sandwich.

The gathering was welcomed by Mr. L. Kew, former staff member of Richborough Camp. He recalled the century-old tradition of the Borough of Sandwich as a place of refuge for the persecutees and expressed the gratitude of the former refugees to the Anglo-Jewish organisations and the British authorities which, by the establishment of Richborough Camp, saved the lives of 5,000 Nazi persecutees. Mr. Kew gratefully remembered the outstanding services of the former members of the Camp Committee, Sir Robert Waley-Cohen and Mr. Ernest Joseph, both no longer alive, and of the Camp Commandant, Mr. Jonas May. Particular tributes, he stated, were, however, due to Professor Norman Bentwich, who was one of the greatest friends of the refugees and

who, to the grief of all present, was not permitted to live to see the unveiling of the plaque, the wording of which had been formulated by him. "We have experienced tolerance and understanding in Sandwich, qualities which, unfortunately, are sometimes lacking today. We shall never forget what has been done for us."

Mr. Julian D. Layton, the only surviving member of the Richborough Camp Committee, unveiled the plaque. Mrs. Helen Bentwich,



[Dover Express picture

Left to right Mr. Julian Layton, O.B.E., and Mr. L. Kew

the next speaker, stressed that the work for the refugees was a cause nearest to her late husband's heart. To be close to the Camp he had bought a house in Sandwich, and many camp men who came as guests to that house had become her and her husband's personal friends. She presented the Mayor of Sandwich with Professor Bentwich's file on the work of the camps.

The Rev. Dr. I. Levy, who was the Jewish Chaplain to the Richborough Pioneer Training

Centre, stated that this occasion was fraught with emotion. The camp men were grateful for having been saved, but they were also deeply worried about the fate of their nearest ones whom they had to leave behind. As members of the British Forces many of them had rendered services with the fighting troops, and their background knowledge had also been useful in other spheres of the war effort. In civilian life they have contributed to the welfare of this country. Dr. Levy described it as a personal privilege to have been permitted to partake in the ceremony.

The last speaker was the Mayor of Sandwich, Councillor Mrs. Jean Maugham. She expressed her gratification at the fact that the citizens of Sandwich had lived up to their traditional spirit of hospitality at the time of Nazi persecution, and conveyed the thanks of the borough to those who had arranged for this permanent memorial of Richborough Camp.

After the end of the official ceremony most participants stayed together at informal gatherings to renew old bonds of comradeship and friendship.

## COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

The annual meeting of the Council of Christians and Jews was addressed by Cardinal Heenan, the Archbishop of Westminster, and by Dr. Ramsay, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Cardinal Heenan appealed to his fellow Christians in Russia "to bring solace to the suffering Jews there". He declared that the Council took every opportunity of using what influence they had, but often this could only be done quietly and without publicity. "If we are good Jews or Christians, we will never remain silent while our fellow men are being persecuted."

Dr. Ramsay said they all felt for the Jews of Russia and had to speak out both publicly and privately. He also attacked the Government's new Immigration Bill.

Chief Rabbi Jakobovits, who presided, referred to the appalling tragedy in East Pakistan; the anguish of millions of Jews groaning under the increasing Soviet yoke; and the anxiety in the Middle East.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 18th of the month.

### Marriage

**Hahn-Kleinmann.**—The wedding of Michael, son of Rudolph and Elizabeth Hahn, grandson of Mrs. Hedwig Rosenthal, of 97 Park Avenue North, London, N.W.10, to Eve, daughter of Alf and Celia Kleinmann, of 3 Irvin Gardens, London, N.W.10, will be solemnised on August 15, at 3 p.m. at the Hampstead Synagogue, Dennington Park Road, London, N.W.6.

### Birthdays

**Gumprich.**—Mr E. Gumprich (formerly Trier), of 21 Grosvenor Court, 75 Christchurch Avenue, London, N.W.6, will celebrate his 75th birthday on August 3.

**Rosenthal.**—Mr. Leo Rosenthal (formerly Frankfurt/Main), of Leigham Grange Nursing Home, 76 Langham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W.16, will celebrate his 95th birthday on August 9.

### Deaths

**Auerbach.**—Dr. Max Auerbach died peacefully after a long illness on June 23, in his 84th year. Deeply mourned by Steffi and Walter Simon and Peter Brooke.

**Bernheim.**—Mr. Heinrich Bernheim (formerly Stuttgart), passed away on July 15 at the age of 92. Deeply mourned by his daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

**Geiger.**—Mrs. Friedl Geiger, of 17 Sedgcombe Avenue, Kenton, Middlesex, died on June 24. Deeply mourned by her husband, Paul, daughter, Ruth, son-in-law, grandchildren and friends.

**Rüdenberg.**—Mrs. Ida Rüdenberg (née Heymann) (formerly Warburg, Krefeld, Düsseldorf and London), of 245 Clark Street, Westfield, New Jersey, U.S.A., passed away on June 28, aged 85. In loving memory by her sister, brother, nephews and nieces.

**Sanderson.**—Mr. Max Sanderson (Steinmann), formerly Moers on Rh., passed away suddenly. Sadly missed by his wife Hilde, family and friends.

**Schuler.**—Dr. Berthold Schuler, of 91 Green Hill, London, N.W.3, died on July 12. Deeply mourned by his wife Anya, his children, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

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## MISSING PERSONS

### AJR Enquiries

**Rotenberg.**—Israel Perla seeks two nieces by the name of Rotenberg who left Altenburg or Leipzig for Germany about 1938/39 at the age of about 12-14 years with a children's transportation for London. Father's name Josef Rotenberg, mother's name Hinia Rotenberg (née Perla). Last known address Altenburg bei Leipzig, Germany. Readers who are able to give any information, please write to: AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3 6JY.

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## Birthday Tributes

KURT MAY 75

### ZUM 70. GEBURSTAG VON F. GOTTFURT

Literarisch war die Zeit nach dem ersten Weltkrieg in Deutschland ungeheuer fruchtbar. Zeitschriften schossen nur so aus der Erde. Neben der von "Schau—" in "Weltbuehne" umgetauften Wochenschrift gab es bald "Das Tagebuch" von Schwarzschild und Stefan Grossmann, Epsteins "blaues Heft", Rillas "gruene Erde", Hans Reimanns "Der Drache", Flechtheims "Querschnitt", den "Buecherwurm", und natuerlich die "Neue Rundschau" und den "Mercur", um nur einige zu nennen. Nicht zu vergessen den "Feuerreiter", eine der besten, den Fritz Gottfurcht, der nunmehr als Frederic Gottfurf am 8. August seinen 70. Geburtstag in London feiert, gemeinsam mit Georg Zivier redigierte. Als Herausgeber zeichnete Heinrich Eduard Jacob, der gerade seine ersten Romanerfolg mit "Der Zwanzigjaehrige" hatte, wohl weil seine Mutter Martha Lampel dieses Podium fuer die junge Generation finanzierte; das restliche Defizit deckten die Einnahmen von einem alljaehrlichen Ball, fuer den man nur im Schleichhandel Karten bekommen konnte.

Durch den "Feuerreiter" lernte der junge Gottfurcht Moriz Seeler kennen und kam so zum Theater, als dieser die "junge Buehne" gruendete, die Bronnen, Brecht, Zuckmayer und vielen Anderen zum Durchbruch verhalf. Obwohl er sich spaeter dem Film zuwandte, blieb Gottfurcht seiner ersten Liebe zum Theater treu. Wer heute wissen will, wer in "Pankratz erwacht" von Kerr entdeckt ein Star wurde, wer der erste weibliche "Puck" war und wer die Rolle in Bruckners "Verbrecher" niederlegte, die Hans Albers dann uebernahm und die ihn zum serioesen Schauspieler machte, braucht nur Gottfurf anzurufen, der selbst noch in Schlaf die richtige Antwort geben kann.

Nach kurzem Aufenthalt in Paris landete er mit Curt Bernhardt, dem Regisseur der "letzten Kompagnie" in London, wo man in der Cork Street eine Filmproduktion aufzog, die unter anderem Jean Gilberts "Girl in a taxi" verfilmte. Waehrend des Krieges schrieb Gottfurf dann gemeinsam mit Egon Larsen jene kleinen Revuen fuer den "Freien deutschen Kulturbund". Nach Kriegsende wurde er "scenario editor" der "Associated British". Dort sass er ueber 20 Jahre lang, wenn auch wohl nicht immer gluecklich, weil man nicht drehte, was er empfahl, und zuweilen drehte, was eigentlich nicht seinem guten Geschmack entsprach.

Seit kurzem hat er sich pensionieren lassen und arbeitet hin und wieder fuers Fernsehen, waehrend seine Frau Dorothea Romane und Stuecke ins Deutsche uebersetzt. Die Idee, sich in waermere Gegenden zurueckzuziehen, haben die Gottfurts inzwischen aufgegeben; London waere ohne sie nicht dasselbe . . .

PEM

### WERNER ACKERMANN 70

Als Auswanderungsberuf lernte der Berliner Syndikus Werner Ackermann Baumkuchen backen. Mit der kostspieligen und komplizierten Apparatur, diesen "Koenig aller Baeckereien" herzustellen, kam er nach London, um feststellen zu muessen, dass der Gasdruck nicht stark genug war, und gewerkliche Fabrikationen in Privatwohnungen nicht erlaubt waren. Als dann alle Hindernisse ueberwunden und die ersten Baumkuchen fertig waren, wollten die Englaender das teure Gebaeck nicht essen; "Fortnum & Mason" und "Kempinkis" waren Ackermanns erste Kunden. Aus den unverkauften Resten machte er Baumkuchenspitzen, die schon besser gingen. Inzwischen hat er sich auf feinstes Konfekt nach dem besten deutschen Muster umgestellt, was in den Jahren der Zuckerrationierung nicht ganz einfach war. Heute hat er zwei gutgehende Geschaefte in London, sein Name ist eine Schutzmarke fuer Qualitaet und seine Firma ist Hoflieferant der Koenigin-Mutter. Und am 26. August ist Werner Ackermann 70 Jahre alt.

Die Jahre der Umstellung des Juristen zum Schokoladenfabrikanten sind vorbei. In seinen Mussestunden malt Werner Ackermann huedische Bilder; wenn es nicht so spaet gewesen waere, haette er noch seinen Jugendwunsch erfuellt, Schauspieler zu werden. Es ist ihm zwar nicht gelungen, seinen neuen Landsleuten den Geschmack auf Baumkuchen beizubringen, aber sein Konfekt hat sich durchgesetzt.

PEM

### FRITZ SEGALL 70

Mr Fritz Segall will celebrate his 70th birthday on August 27. An active Social Democrat since his 18th year, he first worked as a journalist for the Vorwaerts and various other party and trade union papers. Later he became Secretary of the Arbeiter-Radio-Funk and editor of the Volksfunk, the official radio journal of the SPD. When the Nazis came to power he was arrested. From 1934-1939 he worked for the Jewish "Kuenstlerhilfe" which looked after displaced Jewish musicians, actors, authors and artists, providing work for them within the Jewish community and also helping them in preparing their emigration. He came to this country shortly before the outbreak of war. After having worked as a labourer for several years, he later held positions in the book and publishing trade.

Mr. Segall is Chairman of the Association of German Social Democrats in Great Britain and liaison officer between the Executive of the SPD and the British Labour Party.

Like his wife, Mrs. Dora Segall, a Vice-Chairman of the AJR Club, he has been associated with the AJR since its inception. We express our sincerest birthday congratulations to him.

The Head of Operations of the United Restitution Organisation, Rechtsanwalt Kurt May, will celebrate his 75th birthday on August 15.

In carrying out his work at the helm of URO, Mr. May has combined the functions of a most efficient administrator with the qualities of an eminent lawyer. He conducts the work of the URO offices inside and outside Germany from the central office in Frankfurt/Main. Even a layman will realise that it is no easy task to be in charge of such a huge organisation spread over three continents.

Mr. May had a sound legal grounding and experience of legal practice as a lawyer at the Oberlandesgericht Jena until 1933. His legal interest never flagged, and, together with his equally gifted colleague, Dr. Schueler, he has used it by regularly providing the URO offices with circulars informing the legal advisers on case law and other developments, commenting on new decisions and giving guidance on the work of the offices. He has also always been in close contact with the German legal and administrative authorities with a view to improving legislation and administration. By his combination of firmness and practical sense he has established a high reputation for himself, and his suggestions are always given most serious consideration.

Kurt May is also a most pleasant man to work with, and the Council of Jews from Germany is especially indebted to him for his constant friendly co-operation and assistance in its own legislative efforts. May's powers of mind and body are unimpaired by age, and we sincerely hope that he will be able to continue his work for a long time to come.

W.B.

### PROBST HEINRICH GRUEBER 80

Propst D. Dr. Heinrich Grueber (Berlin), one of the most courageous fighters against the Nazi regime, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. His office for persecutees An der Stechbahn assisted many persons who were persecuted because of their origin, and Propst Grueber himself had to spend several years in concentration camps on account of his activities. His name is remembered in the "Alley of the Righteous" at Yad Vashem near Jerusalem. Propst Grueber has remained an uncompromising fighter for freedom and democracy and is taking a leading part in the work for Jewish-Christian understanding.

### AWARD FOR PROFESSOR MAHLER

Professor Kurt Mahler was awarded the de Morgan Medal of the London Mathematical Society, one of the highest honours provided in British mathematics. Dr. Mahler was born in Germany and came to this country as a refugee. After many years at Manchester, he has moved successively to Canberra and Ohio State University. He joined the AJR when he lived in Britain and has remained its supporter also after his re-emigration. We extend our sincerest congratulations to him.

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## ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

### AJA CENTENARY

The centenary dinner of the Anglo-Jewish Association held in the Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn, London, and attended by many leading Anglo-Jewish personalities, was graced by the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Among the more than 300 guests were the French Ambassador, Baron de Courcel, and his wife; the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Michael Comay and Mme. Comay; and Professor René Cassin, president of the Alliance Israélite Universelle.

Prince Philip in his address said that, despite minor blemishes in the past, Anglo-Jewish relations had not been entirely unsuccessful and, indeed, in contrast to others, could be described as a triumph of common sense. For this thanks were due to the AJA and similar organisations. The Home Secretary, Mr. Reginald Maudling, stated that the Jews of Britain had made enormous contributions over the years to the life of the nation, notably in the arts and sciences as well as in industry and entertainment. But their greatest attributes had been their enormous generosity, remarkable appreciation of beauty, and intense sense of family loyalty. To be British and remain Jewish was, he said, an admirable objective.

Mr. Harold Sebag-Montefiore, who presided, contrasted the freedom of life in Britain with the many lands where Jews suffered. He referred to the work done by the Association in the fields of human rights and education and to its influence in foreign affairs. In particular, he paid tribute to the American Jewish Committee for the help it had given the Alliance and the AJA. Mr. Harold Lever, M.P., spoke of the freedom of access extended in the past by Britain to Jewish refugees.

Mr. Richard Crossman, M.P., editor of the New Statesman, addressed the centenary meeting of the AJA at the West London Synagogue. Israel's continued existence and victories had changed the attitude of Jew and non-Jew alike. Today we were in a situation where the Jewish underdog had disappeared and Gentile support for Zionism could no longer be based on pity or guilt feelings. The quality of Israel's socialism and character of the community should be able to provide the basis of a new relationship in order to retain the support of the West, "provided it is not imperialist and not colonialist," said Mr. Crossman.

### AMERICAN JOINT BUDGET

More than 300,000 Jews in 25 countries were last year helped by the American Joint Distribution Committee, at a cost of almost £10 million. Thirty-eight per cent of the budget was spent in Israel.

### F.W.V. ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

To mark the 90th anniversary of the F.W.V. (Freie Wissenschaftliche Vereinigung), a dinner was held in London on July 17. The guests included members from abroad as well as representatives of several fraternities and organisations in this country, including the AJR. Reunions of this kind are of more than sentimental value, because the community life during the university years has left its impact on everybody who participated in it. The catastrophe of the Nazi period which radically changed the curricula of all members and resulted in dispersion all over the world did not weaken but, on the contrary, strengthen the bonds of loyalty and friendship. It is only natural that on an occasion like this the original aims of the F.W.V. were also subjected to self-critical scrutiny. This became evident in the speeches, especially by Dr. W. Gallecki (New York) and Dr. G. Sandheim (London). The foundation of the fraternity was a reaction to the rising antisemitism in Germany after the "Gründerjahre". The F.W.V. took up the challenge, not so much from a Jewish position but, with the help of progressive non-Jewish politicians, in the name of Liberalism and tolerance. Yet the hope that the fraternity might build up a common platform for Jewish and non-Jewish students did not materialise, because the majority of non-Jewish students were politically Right-wing. Things are different in present-day Germany, according to Rechtsanwalt Martin Hirsch, MdB, who attended the function as a guest. He maintained that the majority of students are democrats in their outlook and that, therefore, the basic ideas by which the founders of the F.W.V. were motivated may now fall on fertile ground at German universities.

### EVENTIDE HOUSING SOCIETY LTD.

On July 4, shareholders of the Eventide Housing Society Ltd. which is sponsored and administered by the AJR were given an opportunity of seeing a show flat in "Nether grove" Nether Street, N.2, an eight-storey building which is supposed to be ready for occupation before the end of this year. Owing to instructions from the Housing Corporation which has put the necessary finance at the disposal of the Society, the house consists of three-room flats throughout. Whilst at the moment all available 53 flats have tentatively been reserved by shareholders of the Society, it cannot be excluded that some of these will eventually not take up their option. Those members of the AJR who may be potentially interested in the project are, therefore, advised to notify Mr. E. A. Lomnitz, c/o AJR.

### WEDDING IN OTTO HIRSCH HOUSE

Early in July, two residents of Otto Hirsch House, Mrs. Bertha Steinitz and Mr. Herman Schwarz, both from Vienna, 85 and 82 years old, were married. Their wedding was celebrated with a large reception in Otto Hirsch House, in which both families of the bridal couple, the residents, the House Committee and numerous guests participated. The newly married couple decided to remain residents of the Otto Hirsch House where we hope they will spend many happy years together.

### FREUD'S FLAT AS MEMORIAL

The former flat in the Berggasse (Vienna), where Sigmund Freud lived from 1891 until he was forced to emigrate on June 5, 1938, has been converted into a memorial for the founder of psychoanalysis. The dedication ceremony was performed by the Austrian Federal Chancellor, Dr. Bruno Kreisky. Freud had taken over the flat from the Social Democratic politician, Dr. Victor Adler. After the Anschluss the flat was first used as an assembling point for Jews to be deported, and later successively as an NS Office, a shelter for bomb victims and, after the war, for DPs. The conversion into a memorial was arranged by the Freud Society with the support of the State and municipal authorities. A number of privately owned objects and documents were donated by Anna Freud (London). The waiting-room has been restored to its original condition, and the previous furnishing of the other rooms is illustrated by photos. At the entrance door the original nameplate "Prof. Dr. Freud" has been affixed.

## Letter to the Editor

### ROME AND JERUSALEM

Sir,—I was more than dismayed to read in Dr. Freedman's article on "Rome and Jerusalem" the reference to the 1948 U.N. Commission on the internationalisation of Jerusalem that "the only achievement they could boast of was their own safe evacuation". There was surely no hope of implementing the Trusteeship Council's Plan for Jerusalem which was only approved by the General Assembly in 1948 in the very short time of the Commission's existence.

It is, however, recorded history that it was a U.N. mediator who secured an end to the fighting in 1948, without boasting about it, and that, alas, U.N. personnel, who have no selfish national interests, have been either killed or murdered in this area on other occasions.

Yours, etc.,

HANS G. WOYDA.

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