

Arthur Prinz (Carlisle, Pa., U.S.A.)

## AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

### Impact on U.S. Jewry

Today it sounds almost like a fairy-tale and yet many of us can remember that more than half a century ago we learned at Zionist training courses that the essential uniqueness of the Jewish problem lay in our being merely a minority everywhere. Other peoples, though they might be minorities here and there, had countries in which they formed a majority. This was why the Jewish State would bring "normalisation" or even the "solution of the Jewish problem".

In the meantime it has become manifest that, while Israel's existence, now 23 years old, has immensely raised Jewish prestige in the world and refuted certain calumnies, particularly that of our alleged cowardice, it has by no means solved the Jewish problem, but even complicated it in certain respects. In the United States, by far the most important country of the Diaspora, the financial and political aid extended by the overwhelming majority of the Jews to Israel has created many a ticklish problem, unfortunately not sufficiently understood either in the USA or in Israel, and not infrequently aggravated in a dangerous fashion by irresponsible demagogues.

The Americans being a nation composed of emigrants from the most diverse countries, have a quite considerable understanding for the attachment of their fellow citizens of Irish or Italian, German or Greek descent to their countries of origin and for the fact that they cultivate these bonds in countless societies and clubs. It has also been realised for a long time that these ties are not confined to things cultural and humanitarian, but that they can have important economic and political effects. The sums sent by former emigrants in many thousands of small amounts to their former homelands formed important entries on the balance of payment accounts of countries such as Italy and Greece for many decades, though it is true to say that this was at times when there was no need to worry about the fate of the dollar. After the Second World War in particular enormous sums were sent to the European countries of origin of US citizens, either in dollars or in the form of "Care" parcels. US foreign policy, too, was often influenced by the specific interests and passions of the various nationalities, the relations between Washington and London being especially burdened by hatred of England on the part of strong Irish groups in the USA until the establishment of the Irish State. In 1919 when President Wilson was negotiating in Paris about the frontiers of the new Europe, Italians and Yugoslavs in New York organised demonstrations and counter-demonstrations and beat each other up in order to decide the fate of Trieste and Fiume. Finally, the serious threat to US foreign policy both during the First and

Second World Wars by the activities of German nationalist groups can be read in any history book.

Yet, despite all these historical facts, Jewish support for Israel has created problems which are in many respects without precedent. As regards the financial efforts, particularly since June 1967, one may do well to remember Hegel's famous assertion that at a certain point quantitative changes turn into qualitative ones, i.e. that they create problems of a completely different kind. The gigantic sums raised at a time of crisis by relatively rich and well organised US Jews in one tremendous and spontaneous effort, later to be followed by other sums perhaps on a lesser scale, cannot be compared with the remittances sent by emigrants to their relatives in the past. Not only is the size of the sums unparalleled, but also their purpose, the manner in which they were raised and, above all, the very sympathetic tolerance shown so far on the part of the Government and the greater part of the public. This goodwill is all the more remarkable as the US balance of payments has given much cause for anxiety in recent years and the outflow of dollars to Israel is of considerable importance in this respect.

#### Goodwill at Stake

Unfortunately the Jewish public is not taking sufficient notice of these aspects, above all of the fact that all contributions to the United Jewish Appeal can, within certain limits, be deducted from taxable income, in the same way as contributions to certain, carefully defined, categories of US cultural and charitable institutions. While this concession may not be very significant to the small tax-payer who pays only a comparatively low percentage, it makes an enormous difference as far as the recipients of large incomes are concerned. This is why we may well believe the assertion that the Arab groups in the USA would regard the abolition of tax reliefs for the United Jewish Appeal as a great victory; it would indeed be a heavy blow! The present privilege is all the more remarkable as contributions to other foreign organisations are expressly excluded from this preferential treatment. The attitude of the public is also generous on the whole. While on a visit to Quebec, Canada's province with intensely French-Catholic feelings, I was struck by poisonous remarks in the press to the effect that, while Jewish businessmen earned their money from Canadians they preferred to exercise their charity in Israel. I have not yet heard any similar things said in the USA, but that does not mean that emotions of this kind might not find expression one day.

Apart from financial considerations, the American Jews have within the existing insti-

tutions every opportunity to champion Israel politically and to exercise a considerable influence within a limited range. In trying to assess the limits of this influence, a careful distinction must be made between semblance and reality, and the way in which the roles are allotted in the play between Congress and the Executive must be understood. Let us for instance assume that Israel needs aircraft urgently, but that Washington is delaying the sale for political reasons. In such a situation the big Jewish organisations (or some of them) can ask their members to send letters and telegrams to their deputies and senators requesting them to champion the justified wishes of the Israeli democracy, etc. The result is that the deputies and senators whose constituencies contain many Jews, receive a flood of mail which is carefully counted, and the addresses of the senders, unless already known, are noted. Henceforward the senders receive free of charge copies of every pro-Zionist speech made by the deputy in question. For the pro-Israel lobby is a well-known political reality, just like that of the Trade Unions, the protectionists, etc. In order to impress his Jewish electors favourably the deputy in question might also sign a petition to the State Department or to the President in support of Israeli wishes. But what then actually happens is quite a different story, because in accordance with the Constitution the conduct of foreign policy is essentially a matter for the President.

The White House knows very well why the petition has been signed by so many deputies and senators. If the President is like Nixon, who is not an antisemite, but remembers that most of the Jews voted against him, he will not be influenced all that much by such a petition, and the signatories, having demonstrated their goodwill to their Jewish electors, will not do anything more. Nevertheless such a petition has a certain value. The President understands that re-election of some members of his Party, for instance of Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican leader of the Senate, may depend on Jewish votes and he will somehow take such factors into consideration. In the case of a Democratic President, in whose election the Jewish vote and finance would probably play a considerably bigger part, the influence would be correspondingly greater. Indeed, in a recently published newspaper article it was stressed openly that certain presidential candidates for 1972 would depend very much on financial support from Zionists.

As long as Jewish organisations stick to the rules of the game of US democracy, they can exercise a considerable, though limited, influence without unleashing dangerous reactions. On the other hand, to disregard the rules of the political game, particularly if coupled with a disregard for common sense and the most elementary manners, can lead to evil consequences without achieving any appreciable gains, as has been only too clearly demonstrated by Rabbi Kahane. The public as a whole had not heard of the existence of

Continued on page 2, column 1

## AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Continued from page 1

his Jewish Defence League until the visit of President Pompidou, when members of the League not only demonstrated against Pompidou himself because he prevented delivery of the aircraft ordered and paid for by Israel, but behaved in a disgusting way towards Mme. Pompidou, about whom only nice things have been heard. This prompted the Washington Government to tender official apologies, and it is not difficult to imagine the feelings in the White House and in the State Department on this occasion. Moreover it may be assumed that many French Jews, despite criticism of Pompidou, were highly embarrassed, not to mention the reaction of the French public generally.

As far as the situation of the Russian Jews is concerned, it would be naive to fail to recognise that for many years the State Department has not been all that unhappy about the discrimination; after all it afforded a wonderful opportunity to bring home to US Jews how well off they were and to show to Jewish students and intellectuals with more or less Left-wing leanings that Jews simply cannot be pro-Soviet. In addition it made it possible to pillory the Soviet Government before the whole world as being antisemitic and untruthful—a popular approach of many people in the State Department, particularly if, at the same time, the USA can be presented as the country of freedom of religion and conscience. But the excesses of the Jewish Defence League against Russian diplomats, the burning of cars, etc., please neither the State Department nor the US public as Soviet officials suddenly appear as innocent victims and Jews as malefactors. Moreover many Americans may ask themselves why the young people of the J.D.L., instead of zealously advocating the right of the Russian Jews to emigrate to Israel, do not go there themselves, which no one would prevent them from doing! It is impossible to assess from here the effect of the J.D.L.'s activities on the situation of the Russian Jews; but there can be no doubt that it is intensifying antisemitism in the USA which has anyhow been on the increase of late.

Nevertheless there is no need to regard Rabbi Kahane's actions as anything more than an embarrassing and, to a certain extent, harmful interlude. It is unlikely that he will have any truly important effect in the USA. The only thing which could bring about a disastrous deterioration in the position of the US Jews, is a critical aggravation of the situation in the Middle East and the fear that the USA might be dragged into a war. The overwhelming majority of Americans are sick to death of the war in South East Asia and are correspondingly averse to new complications. The overwhelming majority of US Jews, on the other hand, are so emotionally involved with Israel and are inclined to regard Israel's

defence as so vital a US interest that it might give the impression that the country is in danger of being dragged by a small minority of about three per cent of the population into a war whose consequences are unpredictable. Let no one harbour any illusions as to the disastrous consequences of such an impression. Fortunately it may be assumed that the most important Jewish leaders are aware of this danger and will exercise the necessary restraint.

### BROTHERHOOD WEEK

#### Chancellor Brandt's Address

This year's Brotherhood Week in the German Federal Republic was held under the motto: "Human Races—Human Rights". Under the auspices of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Co-operation meetings as well as musical and theatre performances related to the subject took place in all West German cities and in West Berlin. The functions also included the award of the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal to the Berlin Bishop D. Kurt Scharf.

At the opening rally in Cologne, which was attended by the German Ambassador designate to Israel, Jesco von Puttkammer, and by the Israeli Ambassador to Germany, Awner Idan, the main address was delivered by Chancellor Willy Brandt. Referring to the homage he paid to the Nazi victims at the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial, the Chancellor said: "I have done what human beings do, if words fail them, and I have thus—also in the name of my countrymen—paid tribute to the memory of the murdered millions. Yet I also remembered that—in spite of Auschwitz—fanaticism and suppression of human rights are not a matter of the past." This disregard of human rights, Herr Brandt said, manifested itself not only in the suppression of coloured people abroad, but also in the attitude of some Germans to the foreign guest workers in their midst. Turning to the effects of his policy of *détente* on Germany's attitude to Israel, the Chancellor reiterated that improvements in Germany's relations to the Soviet Union were not envisaged at the expense of any third state. This also applied to Israel. Objective leaders of the Arab peoples were aware of the special circumstances which determined Germany's attitude to Israel: the indelibility of the million-fold murder of European Jews. "This is all the more devastating for us and future German generations, because the symbiosis of Jewish and German culture has engendered such a unique productivity. In spite of this, we tolerated the proof—and had to tolerate it—that hell on earth is possible. It was a reality." "Today", the Chancellor went on, "Israel has moved closely into our neighbourhood, notwithstanding the geographical distance. There has been sufficient courage on both sides to rediscover the common heritage."

### RESTITUTION NEWS

See page 11

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## GERMANY TODAY

### BONN'S AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

Mr. Jesco von Puttkammer, editor of the West German Social Democratic weekly, *Vorwaerts*, has succeeded Mr. Karl Hermann Knoke as Bonn's Ambassador to Israel.

### PARLIAMENTARY ISRAEL SOCIETY

An association for the promotion of German-Israel relations and an intensified exchange programme between parliamentarians of both countries, has been organised by a group of 106 members of the West German Parliament. Headed by Mr. Guenther Metzger, a Social Democrat, the group includes 67 Christian Democrats and Christian Social Unionists, 38 Social Democrats, and one Free Democrat.

### RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES

The West German Government's official spokesman, Mr. Conrad Ahlers, has stated that the resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt and the other Arab States, broken off in 1965, would be welcomed, but only if talks to this end were not linked with any pre-conditions.

In an interview on German television the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Mahmoud Riad, had stated that his Government was prepared to resume relations, provided the German Government made a direct appeal to Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and made it clear that it "was not prepared to accept Israeli aggression".

### SPRINGER ON OBLIGATIONS TO ISRAEL

Mr. Axel Springer, in his weekly newspaper *Die Welt*, recently wrote a lengthy article urging West Germans to maintain a "special" relationship with Israel. "Even 25 years after the closing of Auschwitz, German relations with the country of the Jews are not 'normal' but in every case 'special'", stated the West German newspaper magnate. "Israel's enemies", he went on to say, alluding to West Germany's *rapprochement* with the Arab world, "cannot be our friends, and tactics can have no room where morality binds us". Men and women in all parties and all classes demanded that the Germany of 1971 should openly embrace the Jewish cause and that of Israel, as West Germany did under Konrad Adenauer and Ludwig Erhard", the article stated. Even if there was no collective guilt, said Mr. Springer, there was and is a collective liability from which no German can withdraw, especially if he belongs to the older generation.

### ANOTHER RIGHT-WING PARTY

A new extremist Right-wing party, the *Deutsche Volkunion* (DVU) held its first public meeting recently in Munich. About 400 people attended, mostly followers of existing Right-wing splinter groups in the Bavarian capital.

The DVU was formed in January by 37-year-old Dr. Gerhard Frey, editor of the Right-wing *Deutsche Nationalzeitung*. The party comprises Right-wing elements and members of Mr. Franz-Josef Strauss's Christian Social Union, and owns a weekly, the *Deutsche Anzeiger*. Its programme calls for equal rights for all individuals, peoples and nations; for the revival and strengthening of the Western alliance; and for understanding between all nations. Anti-Israel and anti-Jewish ideas are not propagated, but Dr. Frey is a violent anti-Zionist, constantly waging anti-Israel propaganda.

### NDP LOSSES

In the Rhineland-Palatinate elections to the State Parliament, the National Democratic Party lost the four seats it gained in previous elections. The NDP had gained 6.9 per cent of the total vote in 1967. This time its percentage of the total dropped to 2.7 per cent.

Last year the NDP lost its parliamentary seats in Lower Saxony, Hesse and Bavaria. It is still represented in the Parliaments of Schleswig-Holstein, Bremen and Baden-Wuerttemberg.

# HOME NEWS

## BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board of Deputies held a full discussion on the nature of the Immigration Bill and the attitude which the Jewish community should adopt towards it. A number of Deputies described the Bill as a racist measure which, they said, should be condemned by Anglo-Jewry both on moral and practical grounds.

No formal resolution could be presented to the Board since an emergency motion from the students had been vetoed by the president, Alderman Michael Fidler, M.P. Deputies could only approve, with virtually no opposition, a declaration from the defence committee stating that the proposed legislation would have "an adverse effect" on race relations in this country.

During his formal presidential statement, Alderman Fidler himself referred to the controversy by disclosing that he had received letters from members of the Board in connection with his support for the Bill both in the House of Commons and outside. On the occasion of the two previous Immigration Bills in 1961 and 1968, said the president, no reference had been made to Jewish M.P.s who voted in Parliament one way or another. On the last occasion he had ruled that any discussion of the Board's attitude, as formulated in the report of its executive committee, would not be in the public Jewish interest. For that very reason he was now asking the Board to proceed in the same way.

At Alderman Fidler's insistence to "test the opinion of the Board", 84 Deputies voted for an immediate debate and 58 against.

Mr. Hayim Pinner, opening the discussion, said that the Bill in its "patrial" clause singled out for special status all those newcomers who could produce a British-born parent or grandparent. Such an expert on racialism as Mr. Enoch Powell had described it as racial and had compared it to the Nazi phrase "grandmother not in order", which singled out any descendant of the Jewish race for discrimination and persecution. At the other end of the spectrum, every immigrant organisation in Britain had condemned it as sheer, undiluted racialism.

Referring to the letter which the president had written to the Jewish Chronicle in his presidential capacity, Councillor A. Super said that the president's assertion that the Bill would not affect the position of coloured immigrants was untrue. To accept it, said Mr. Super, would be "a betrayal on my part" in such organisations as the Council of Christians and Jews and others concerned with community relations.

Mr. H. Diamond said that his objection, on purely Jewish grounds, lay in the fact that the Bill took away the automatic right of entry of those Jews who were holders of British passports which were not also United Kingdom passports. On general grounds the Bill seemed objectionable, because it appealed to every fascist element in this country.

Dr. Levenberg stated that the Bill presented the Board with an issue of great importance since any measure likely to increase racial tension was against the interests of the Jewish community. Moreover, because of the "patrial" clause, some 400,000 Jews in Commonwealth countries whose ancestors came not from Britain but from Eastern and Central Europe, would find themselves at a disadvantage compared to many non-Jews in Australia, Canada and other parts of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Victor Mishcon, a vice-president of the Board and chairman of its defence committee, said it was only because the defence committee had wanted to achieve a unanimous response that its statement on the effects of the Bill had been worded in measured and cautious language. With only one or two dissentients the Board approved Mr. Mishcon's appeal to the president to "try and mitigate what I and, I think, the community regards as a regrettable measure."

## IN PARLIAMENT

### Immigration Bill

Mr. S. Clinton Davis, M.P., told the Parliamentary Standing Committee B at its fifth sitting on the Immigration Bill that Alderman Michael Fidler, M.P., "is rapidly becoming a master of self-deception."

At its previous sitting, said Mr. Davis, Mr. Fidler had taken it upon himself to assert that anybody who disagreed with his construction of the Bill was misrepresenting the purpose of the Bill to the country. But nothing could be more clearly racialistic than this provision. Mr. Fidler knew this was so and, indeed, his own defence committee on the Board of Deputies of British Jews had, asserted this, with two dissentients.

Mr. Fidler said that there had been no such statement in any report issued by the defence committee, to which Mr. Davis replied that the committee's chairman, Mr. Mishcon, gave a very clear and categorical assertion of what his committee's views were at the last meeting of the Board of Deputies. Those views were totally dissimilar from those of Mr. Fidler. The tolerant-minded Jewish community of this country were, in Mr. Davis's view, deeply concerned with the intolerant attitude depicted in the Bill. It was very sad that Mr. Fidler should have become associated with the Bill. "This is the concern of many of us in the Jewish community". He would like to put forward a different view from that put forward by Mr. Fidler, whose was not the only view in a community which had understood discrimination in the past and which knew only too well what the purpose of discrimination can be.

Mr. Fidler declared that he would like the committee to know that he was not representing the view of the Board, having been appointed a member of the Standing Committee by the Conservative Members of the House.

### RED ARMY ENSEMBLE

The Red Army Ensemble's London season at the Golders Green Odeon opened with a demonstration by more than 500 people, mostly Jews. During the performances smoke bombs and mice were let loose in the auditorium. Mr. Maurice King, the Jewish impresario who brought the ensemble to this country, stated that they will visit Britain again in two years' time, but that Jews will not be allowed in the audience.

The Universities Committee for Soviet Jewry publicly dissociated itself from "extremist and disruptive elements" who interrupted performances of the ensemble.

With acknowledgements to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle

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# ANGLO-JUDAICA

## Jewish Book Week Lecture

The opening lecture of the Jewish Book Week, of which the AJR was one of the sponsoring organisations, was delivered by Mr. Chimen Abramsky, Reader in Jewish History at London University, on "Jewish Historians—From Graetz to Modern Historiography". The speaker stressed the spadework done by German-Jewish scholars like Jost, Steinschneider, Graetz and Geiger, who applied modern methods to Jewish historical research. In the second part of his lecture, the speaker evaluated the different attitudes of contemporary Jewish historians from the late Simon Dubnov to F. Baer, B. Dinur, G. Scholem and S. Baron. The lecture excelled by its wealth of material which was presented to the audience in a concentrated and stimulating way.

The exhibition of books included many publications which appeared during the last year and thus testified to the increasing production of Judaica in this country.

## Welfare Board Deficit

A meeting of the Jewish Welfare Board was told that at least £250,000 is required this year to cover an estimated deficit in the Board's general fund. The Board assisted some 15,000 Jews, yet it was helped financially by only 8,000. There was also a large gap in the work the Board needed to do, because the community did not support it.

Mr. Anthony Krais, public relations and appeals officer, said the problem was one of an affluent society reluctant to accept its social obligations, and exacerbated perhaps by the major difficulty of making one's voice heard above the cry for Israel. The larger part of the community's fund-raisers were now involved solely in that one direction, forgetting that perhaps, as individuals, they might one day also have to turn to the Board for help and that, in any event, a strong community at home was also in Israel's best interests.

## Mixed Marriage Conference

A one-day conference on mixed marriage was arranged at the Hampstead Synagogue by the standing joint committee of the League of Jewish Women and the Union of Jewish Women. As a result, a commission is to be set up to investigate conversion and its availability.

Rabbi Raymond Apple, chairman of the Jewish Marriage Education Council, stated that intermarriage was the price of emancipation. "But we can disapprove, we can refuse to condone . . . we can impose sanctions on Jews who marry out. We do not have to give them public honours and recognition."

Rabbi Dow Marmur, a marriage counsellor and chairman of the Assembly of Reform Ministers, said that he believed conversion could be beneficial to the community, to be used not as a political issue but to make families whole and to preserve the Jewish heritage.

## Militant Housewives

More than 100 Ilford militant Jewish housewives, mostly young, protested against the cost of kosher meat and poultry to representatives of the meat and poultry wholesalers. These housewives alleged that the wholesalers were not disclosing any actual losses and that the retailers were not saying why the cost of kosher meat, compared with non-kosher, was so high.

## Legal Status of Women

At a brains trust organised by the Anglo-Jewish Associations, strong support was given to organisations which are striving to obtain rabbinical approval for changes in the legal status of Jewish women.

Dr. I. Gordon, senior consultant at the London Jewish Hospital, stated that Jewish women encountered a terrible stumbling block in the halacha, which caused great hardship, particularly on such issues as divorce. He suggested that one way out was to give a bill of divorce at the time of marriage, which would be held "in case" by the officiating rabbi.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Jews and Negroes

The Negro civil rights leader, Mr. Bayard Rustin, addressed the National Council of Jewish Women at their biennial convention in Detroit. He said that, just as the extremist Jewish Defence League represented only a tiny fraction of Jews in America, so the Black Panthers spoke only for a tiny fraction of Negroes. Both Jews and Negroes were equally interested in the preservation of democracy and the extension of social justice, since they had been and still were victims of persecution, injustices and discrimination. Without close co-operation by the Jewish and Negro communities, no progressive social or political movement could develop in America.

### BARBADOS CEMETERY

Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg, of Caracas, recently visited Barbados in order to examine the Jewish cemetery on the West Indian island, one of the oldest in the Western hemisphere. The cemetery is located in the heart of Bridgetown, near Synagogue Lane. Its earliest identifiable grave dates from 1660. Plans are now under way for the restoration of the cemetery.

### MAJORCA COMMUNITY PETITION

Majorca's Jews have presented a petition to the Governor of the Balearic Islands for permission to establish a community. The petitioners hope to receive a favourable reply. They have already been sent two sifrei Torah, presented by visitors who wish to associate themselves with the new community. The congregation, if it is established, will appeal to overseas communities for help and advice.

### ARGENTINE

Mr. Juan Zweig, a brother of the late Arnold Zweig, died in Buenos Aires at the age of 81. He was a founder member and, for many years, the President of the "Juedische Kultur-Gemeinschaft", an organisation of immigrants from Central Europe.

### SLUR AT PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE

The Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Mahmoud Riad, held a press conference in Paris after visiting President Georges Pompidou at the end of a week's visit to the French capital. Mr. Riad declared that Israel had "no reason to refuse our peace offer, which is sincere, unless she wants to imitate the Nazis, who made it their policy to annex foreign territories". This statement was reported by foreign news agencies and by the influential daily, *Le Monde*, but not by most of the French press.

### NETHERLANDS

#### Controversial Award

The recommendation of a three-man literary panel to award the 1970 Amsterdam prize for prose writing, worth £500, to Dr. Friedrich Weinreb, has been rejected by the Amsterdam municipality. They stated that, although the literary value of Dr. Weinreb's work was not in question, he was a "compromised person."

Dr. Weinreb, a Jewish author now living in Zurich, born in Lvov, was freed after serving 3½ years of a six-year sentence imposed by a Dutch court in 1948 on charges of collaborating with the Nazi occupiers of Holland during the Second World War. He has always maintained his innocence, claiming that he hoodwinked the Nazis, thereby saving the lives of hundreds of Jews.

#### Rotterdam's Chief Rabbi Retires

Rabbi Levie Vorst has retired as Rotterdam's Chief Rabbi, and intends to settle in Israel. Queen Juliana made Rabbi Vorst a member of the Order of Orange Nassau, to mark his 40 years of service to the Rotterdam community.

## 'ARAB PROPAGANDA' IN VATICAN NEWSPAPER

An allegation in an editorial in the Vatican newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, that 6,000 Arabs are to be evicted from the Old City of Jerusalem to make way for Jews, has been denied by Israel as "Arab propaganda".

Jerusalem does not regard the editorial as an official expression of Vatican policy. Nevertheless, surprise has been expressed by official circles that a newspaper like *Osservatore Romano* should lend its pages to such material.

The anonymous writer of the article also made other anti-Israel statements. He declared that, by squeezing Christian and Moslem Arabs into increasingly smaller areas of Jerusalem, Israel was forcing many of them to seek living accommodation elsewhere. The editorial claimed that it was the Israeli Government's intention to achieve *de facto* sovereignty over the whole city. *Osservatore Romano* repeated previous Vatican demands for internationalisation of Jerusalem, saying that unless this problem were solved it could prove an insuperable obstacle to a Middle East settlement.

### RUSSIAN EMIGRANTS

The number of Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate to Israel in March reached the record monthly figure of 1,000, compared with 150 during the whole of February and 50 in January. Last year 1,010 emigrants arrived in Vienna after their departure from the U.S.S.R. In 1969 the total was 2,700. Recently a large group of Soviet Jews, including families from Riga, Moscow and Vilna, arrived at Lydda airport.

Writing in *Pravda*, the organ of the Soviet Communist Party, its political commentator, Victor Mayevsky, said that reports of the alleged mass emigration of Jews from the U.S.S.R. (Western news agencies reports of Soviet consent to the emigration of 300,000 Soviet Jews within the next five years) were undoubtedly designed to intimidate the Arabs with the "threat of mass emigration" from the U.S.S.R. and to cause harm to Soviet-Arab relations.

### FREEDOM FOREST

The Jewish National Fund plans to raise £1,500,000 this year towards the largest afforestation scheme it has yet undertaken. This is a forest of three million trees in Israel as a gesture of solidarity with Jews in the Soviet Union. The "Russian Jewry Freedom Forest" is planned to have a tree representing each of the Jews in the Soviet Union. The forest is to consist of Jerusalem pine trees, and its planting is expected to start at the end of this year.

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## EASTERN JEWRY

### KREMLIN TALKS REQUESTED

The World Conference of Jewish Communities on Soviet Jewry, based in Paris, which met in Brussels in February, has sent a telegram to Moscow.

The message, addressed to Mr. Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, "respectfully" requested the Soviet Government "to receive a small delegation representing many Jewish communities, to discuss the rights of Jewish citizens in your country to emigrate, also the cultural and religious possibilities for your Jewish community. We think an exchange of views could bring an appreciable contribution to mutual comprehension".

Lord Janner and Mr. Michael Fidler, M.P., were the signatories for Britain.

### LENINGRAD HIJACK TRIAL

In a statement issued by the Jewish Contemporary Library in Paris, it was alleged that after nine months' detention of the nine Jewish defendants in the postponed second Leningrad hijack trial, relatives are still without information about their fate or the right to visit them.

According to the Library, approaches to the KGB, the Ministry of the Interior and Communist Party headquarters by friends of the defendants, have met with no success. A group of Riga Jews who sought information about the prisoners from the Latvian Council of Ministers was told by the Prime Minister that he knew nothing about them.

### ODESSA RABBI ON WORLD ZIONISM

*Literaturnaya Gazeta* (Literary Gazette), the official organ of the USSR Writers' Union, has published an article by the rabbi of the Odessa community, a Talmudic scholar with a long standing reputation in the Soviet Union. Rabbi I. B. Schwartzblat expressed "deep indignation at the outrages of world Zionism, provocations against Soviet citizens and offices in the USA, and the shameful gathering in Brussels".

Stating that the victory over Nazism cost the Soviet people 20 million lives, Rabbi Schwartzblat said: "Today the Israeli gendarmes train their guns and machine guns on Arab women, old men and children, while Moshe Dayan threatens to raze almost entire countries from off the face of the earth."

Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, of Moscow, was one of nine people who signed a letter calling the Brussels conference "a provocation" and "interference in the internal affairs of the Soviet people".

### SHOLEM ALEICHEM REPRINTED

The Soviet information service, *Novosti*, has reported that the fullest edition of Sholem Aleichem's collected works ever to be published in Russian is to be put out by the Moscow fiction publishing house. An edition of 100,000 is planned.

### MATZOT FOR RUMANIA

Rumania, for the fourth successive year, headed the list of Jewish communities which received matzot, wine and other Passover items from the American Joint Distribution Committee. The Rumanian community received nearly 183 tons of Passover supplies.

The "Joint" has this year shipped Passover supplies to communities in Europe and North Africa, and has made special cash grants to needy Jews in Morocco and Iran to enable them to purchase locally produced Passover supplies.

### SLOVAK JEWS

According to the central federation of the Jewish communities of Slovakia, there are Jewish religious communities in 23 districts of the province. Communal workers, including shochetim, are reported to be functioning, with daily services as well as on Sabbath eve, the Sabbath and the High Holy-days. According to the federation, there are 600 Jewish cemeteries in Slovakia without a community in the same area, which are cared for by the nearest community or by local non-Jews.

Fritz Friedlaender (Australia)

## S. FRIEDLAENDER-MYNONA

## Centenary of his Birth

"The gentleman lives in the back premises", the porter's wife told me deprecatingly when I entered a modest house in Berlin West in the twenties and asked for Dr. S. Friedlaender's flat, Friedlaender, using the pen name Mynona (reverse of "anonym"), had become a well-known, but somehow controversial figure in the post-naturalistic German literature.

I first heard his name mentioned by elder members of my family whose opinion of a writer who was neither serialised in the Berliner Tageblatt nor in the Vossische Zeitung was rather low. But some of my young friends, progressive intellectuals, differed completely: they were intrigued by Mynona's grotesque and satirical stories which, as they told me, were not only entertaining, but also offered ample food for thought. So I decided to find out for myself.

Mynona's wife, an unassuming, but dignified woman, let me in. The writer's tall, lean figure hovered over his desk, while his face, like Kafka's, reflected the bewilderment of a thinker trying in vain to solve the riddle of the purpose of man. When I told him how my friends were thrilled by the mysterious flavour of some of his stories, he exclaimed bitterly: "What a pity that they can't express their admiration in American dollars and in English pounds!" The post-war inflation was at its peak at that time, and I realised that Mynona belonged to those writers desperately struggling to make ends meet.

"Who is the thinker under whose spell you have fallen now?" he asked me when I spoke of my study of philosophy at the Berlin University. "Schopenhauer's boldness fascinates me", I replied. "He has the courage to use the surgeon's knife on man's conventional illusions", Mynona gave me a searching look and said: "When I was as young as you I went through the same experience. But that was over when I went from Schopenhauer back to Kant and realised that Kant is unique. I strongly advise you to travel the same route".

When I took his advice I soon discovered that Kant also furnished me with the key to unlock the strange mystery of S. Friedlaender-Mynona's writing. I learned that according to Kant we do not recognise the true nature of things but only their images, and I perceived that this doctrine formed the background of Friedlaender-Mynona's work.

He had, indeed, travelled a long way to find fulfilment in Kant. He was born in Gollantsch, a little place in the former province of Posen, on May 4, 1871, a son of Sanitätsrat Dr. Ludwig Friedlaender, a first cousin of my father; his sister married a Mr. Bendix whose only son, Dr. med. Paul J. Bendix, became, by chance, my friend in Shanghai in 1939. The young Salomon Friedlaender, called Sally in my family, grew up in Posen, first studied medicine, but changed over to philosophy at the Universities of Muenchen, Berlin and Jena. After his graduation he settled down as a writer in Berlin in 1906.

Two years later he published a volume of poems: "Durch blaue Schleier" belonging, in style, to that early expressionism which, at the beginning of this century, strongly opposed naturalism. But above all, as Mynona, he made a name for himself as a writer of grotesque and satirical stories of which "Rosa, die schöne Schutzmannsfrau" (1913) became best known. "Die Bank der Spötter" (1919)

was the product of a somehow cynical radicalism.

Mynona's stories may be best characterised as a literary equivalent to the expressionist paintings and drawings of a Max Beckmann and a George Grosz. Therefore, his satires were held in high esteem by groups of young radical intellectuals gathered around the avant-gardist magazines Die Aktion and Sturm. Paul Scheerbarth, a noted writer of fantastic stories, Samuel Lublinski and Karl Kraus also admired Friedlaender-Mynona and joined the circle of his friends.

As a philosopher, Friedlaender-Mynona was no less radical and uncompromising. Before he dedicated himself to Kant, he was, besides Schopenhauer, strongly influenced by Nietzsche's scathing criticism of German idealism as well as Stirner's boundless individualism. His book "Friedrich Nietzsche—Eine intellektuelle Biographie" (1911) was a result of his profound study of Nietzsche, and he served Max Stirner's cause as a co-editor of Der Einzige, the magazine of the Stirner Association. His philosophical magnum opus: "Schöpferische Indifferenz" (1918) emphasised the importance of man's creativeness and the necessity of a Stirnerian absolute freedom.

Friedlaender had the satisfaction of leading thinkers, Georg Simmel and David Baumgardt, taking a strong interest in his philosophical work. For example, when he published his thought-provoking essay: "Das ätherische Gehirn", Simmel discussed his ideas in a post-script, and Prof. Baumgardt became a close friend of his.

Together with his wife, he escaped in time to Paris in 1933; he died there in 1946. I do not know whether he occupied himself with writing during his last phase, neither do I know how he and his wife managed to survive the Nazi occupation. His widow passed away in Paris in 1968, at the age of 85.

Those who still cherish Mynona's memory will be glad to know that attention has again been paid to his work. In 1965, Ellen Otten published a new edition of "Rosa, die schöne Schutzmannsfrau und andere Grotesken" (Verlag Die Arche, Zürich, 246 pp).

## The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

herewith invites its members to its

## GENERAL MEETING

on Thursday, June 17, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House,

9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3

## AGENDA

## I

Reports on AJR Activities

Treasurer's Report

Election of Executive and Board

(The list of candidates submitted by the Executive will be published in the next issue.)

## II

Dr. Eva G. Reichmann:

## DEUTSCHLAND OHNE JUDEN?

Gedanken zu einer deutschen Publikation.

Non-members are not entitled to vote, but are welcome as guests at the meeting.

## Old Acquaintances

*News from Everywhere:* On the occasion of his 80th birthday, Fritz Lang paid a flying visit to Vienna to receive the golden "Ehrenmedaille" of the city of his birth.—When the new Max Reinhardt Theatre just outside Tel Aviv opens in two years time, the remains of the "Great Magician", in a New York vault since 1943, will be transferred to Israel for burial. The forty prompt books of his most famous productions, sold by his widow Helene Thimig to Marilyn Monroe for \$1,000 and now in Gottfried Reinhardt's possession, will also find a permanent home in Israel.—Robert Jungk has been appointed honorary professor of Berlin's Technische Universitaet.

*Milestones:* Curt Bois was only five years old when he made his first stage appearance in Berlin singing the "Heinerle" song in "Der fidele Bauer". He became a leading comedian and dancer but it took a long time to discover that he was also a great actor and tragedian. He will be remembered in cabaret with Rudolf Nelson, on the stage in "Phaea" and on the screen as "Schlemihl". After difficult years in exile he returned to Germany. Brecht and later Kortner produced several plays with the still youthful looking actor who is now 70 years old.—Georg Froeschel, one-time on the Ullstein staff, has celebrated his 80th birthday. He was for 25 years a writer for M.G.M. and got an "Oscar" for his work on "Mrs. Miniver". Froeschel lives in Los Angeles, where he also takes an active part in the life of the Jewish community.—Walter Wicclair, who directed several plays for the German-speaking community in California, is 70 years of age.

*Obituary:* Opera singer Margarete Arndt-Ober died in Bad Sachsa at the age of 86.—Bruno Manuel died in Switzerland. Before 1933 he wrote the column "Stories without Politics" for the Berliner Tageblatt. He survived the war in the States and was on the staff of the Stuttgarter Zeitung until his retirement.

*Germany:* The late Hans J. Rehfsch's "Strafsache Dr. Helbig" will be produced in Rostock.—Gert Froebe, who took the part of Goldfinger in the James Bond film of that name, appears in "Dollar", an American production on location in Hamburg.

*Home News:* Elisabeth Bergner, Lea Seidl, Mischa Spolianski and Diana Napier, are in a TV feature produced and directed by Charles Castle, to be shown this month on the 80th birthday of the tenor, Richard Tauber. The feature has been compered by James Robertson Justice.—Lilli Palmer, now living in Switzerland, visited London on her return from location in Spain for the filming of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue".—Her sister, Irene Prador, who was seen on TV in "Doom Watch" appears with Hanne Miller in "Take Three Girls", the new BBC series.—Aletta Lohmeyer, daughter of the Cultural Attaché of the German Embassy, appeared in Jean-Louis Barrault's "Rabelais" at the Round House.

PEM

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## IN MEMORY OF NORMAN BENTWICH

### February 28, 1883 – April 8, 1971

*Werner Rosenstock*

#### "WE FOUND REFUGE"

"They found Refuge" is the title of the book in which Norman Bentwich told the saga of the rescue work undertaken by Anglo-Jewry when our fate on the Continent was in jeopardy. In the preface to the work, Lord Samuel drew attention to one deficiency of the otherwise comprehensive narrative: there was no proper mention of the author's own part in the achievement that he described.

For those of us who had the privilege of being near to him for more than three decades, the refuge we found in this country found its most tangible expression in the relationship with Norman Bentwich, which gave us the feeling of being "at home". He not only worked for us but he lived with us. He shared our joys and he shared our sorrows, and for many of us his death on April 8 at the age of 83 means a deeply felt personal bereavement. He was granted a long life, and it was also a full life. He retained his vigour almost up to the end, and even when his strength started to fail him and his illness set in, he did not lose hope and made plans for the future.

#### Love of German Jewry

It is certainly no accident that among those who were associated with him in various spheres of activities, the proportion of Continental Jews was very high. He himself frequently stated that of the many causes he had espoused the work for refugees from Central Europe had given him particular satisfaction. He understood the values of German-Jewish civilisation, and he loved and respected them. There was nothing condescending in his attitude to the newcomers; he made us feel at ease from the very beginning, when our foreign traits were still more noticeable than they are now. He accompanied our lives from the days of our arrival through the period of our rehabilitation and resettlement up to the final integration into our new environment.

In fact, Norman Bentwich's own life story from 1933 onwards was inseparably linked with the history of our own community. Yet not only did he render unsurpassed practical help to the persecutees throughout these years but, as a prolific writer, he also became the faithful and understanding chronicler of our own history. Besides "They found Refuge", his books on "The German Refugees", on refugee soldiers ("I Understand the Risks"), on "The Rescue and Achievement of Refugee Scholars", and on Youth Aliyah ("Jewish Youth Comes Home") bear witness to this; and he also recorded the history of the United Restitution Organisation on the tenth and twentieth anniversaries of that greatest legal aid society.

Norman Bentwich was a member of a distinguished Anglo-Jewish family. His father, Herbert Bentwich, was an early "Lover of Zion" who took a leading part in Jewish and particularly Zionist work. He spent the last years of his life in Palestine, where Norman Bentwich's younger brother and several of his sisters with their families also settled. Norman Bentwich himself started his career as an Inspector of Courts in Egypt before the First World War. During the war, he won the M.C., and in 1918 he was appointed O.B.E. After the war, he became legal secretary to the British Military Admini-

stration in Palestine and in 1921 the title of office was changed to that of Attorney General. In spite of his impartial attitude, the Arabs resented the fact that a Jew should hold such a senior position, and there was even an attempt on his life in 1929. The British Mandatory Power considered his status in the administration of Palestine as an embarrassment and offered him a governorship in one of the colonies. Norman Bentwich decided to stay in the country and declined the offer. The story of his enforced retirement is related in detail in his autobiography "My Seventy-Seven Years" (1962).

In 1931 he became Professor of International Relations at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. At the Inaugural Lecture he faced noisy opposition by Jewish extremist students who were antagonistic to his conciliatory attitude to the Arabs. The work for Jewish-Arab understanding remained a paramount concern for him. It was based on his humanitarianism and his interpretation of the ethical tenets of Judaism. He fought for this ideal, often under adverse circumstances, and he always had the courage of his convictions. It would go beyond the scope of this tribute to deal with this major issue of his life in detail. Yet it is probably no accident that, under the circumstances, he held no official position within the Zionist "establishment". The beneficiary of this state of affairs was the Hebrew University to whose consolidation and expansion he devoted the major part of his time also after his retirement as a Professor in 1951. He was the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors and Chairman of the Friends of the Hebrew University in Great Britain, whose office in Baker Street was also the administrative centre of his other manifold activities.

The year 1933 was to become a turning point in his life. From then onwards, the work

for the victims of Nazi persecution became a central task for him. The fact that his name was linked with the efforts on our behalf proved an invaluable asset. When, in 1933, under the impact of the Nazis' ascent to power, the League of Nations created the office of a High Commissioner for Refugees and appointed Mr. James G. McDonald as High Commissioner, Professor Bentwich became his deputy. Yet together with McDonald, he resigned two years later as a protest against the complacency of the nations in face of the plight of the persecutees. Professor Bentwich became Director of the Council for German Jewry, the newly created body which was to co-ordinate the relief work of the Central British Fund and its corresponding organisations overseas. An indefatigable worker, he travelled to many countries in order to raise the funds required and to organise practical rescue measures.

He also went regularly to Nazi Germany to see for himself and to discuss emigration and training schemes with the responsible personalities of the "Reichsvertretung" and the "Hilfsverein". These visits resulted in strong personal bonds with Leo Baeck, Otto Hirsch, Wilfrid Israel and many other German-Jewish leaders. Immediately after the Anschluss, he decided to go to Austria, disregarding the warnings of the Foreign Office. He was refused admission and had to endure rather rough treatment at the frontier. Yet undismayed, he made another attempt, and he stayed with the Jews in Vienna for four weeks. During his visits to Germany and Austria he also negotiated with officials of ministries and of the Gestapo, including Adolf Eichmann. He was on the black list of those British personalities who would have been arrested if the attempt of the Nazi invasion had been successful. It is typical of Norman Bentwich's personality that, after the Eichmann trial, he was one of those who pleaded for the non-execution of the death sentence.

One of the rescue schemes launched by the Anglo-Jewish organisations in co-operation with the British Government after the November, 1938, pogroms was the establishment of a transit camp at Richborough near Sandwich. Professor Bentwich was in charge of the preparatory work, which included the arrangement of the immigration technicalities with the Home Office. At that time, I worked in the Kitchener Camp Department of the "Reichsvertretung" which was in charge of selecting the candidates, all of whom had been released from the concentration camp on condition of emigration.

There was a continuous correspondence between our department and Professor Bentwich's office at the Central British Fund. The case load to be tackled on both sides of the Channel was tremendous, and, with the imminent outbreak of war, time was a matter of life and death. With unflinching punctuality and accuracy, our office would receive the permits for the selected applicants. When the camp was opened Professor Bentwich, who had meanwhile bought a house in Sandwich, helped to solve the innumerable problems which were bound to arise in a camp of this kind. Though the camp men were grateful for having been rescued from Nazi tyranny and all it entailed for them, the conditions of camp life, aggravated by the uncertainty

*Continued on page 7, column 1*

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## IN MEMORY OF NORMAN BENTWICH

Continued from page 6

about the fate of their families, unavoidably created various kinds of human difficulties. In such a situation Professor Bentwich's understanding of their predicament and his care for their personal well-being were an unforgettable blessing. He took a special interest in the cultural activities of the camp and many inmates also enjoyed his and his wife's hospitality.

When war broke out, he fought against the prejudices arising against the "German" refugees. He visited us when we were interned, and many of us owe their early release to his intervention. He welcomed the foundation of the AJR in 1941 and was one of the first Anglo-Jewish leaders who recognised the need for such a representative body of the Jewish refugees. Whenever we approached him, we could rely on his understanding and help. He spoke at AJR meetings and he often contributed articles to AJR Information. There were innumerable instances in which he brought our hopes and demands to the notice of the wider public. One of the many examples is his participation in the fight for the tax exemption of compensation payments; our success in this matter was to no mean extent due to the weight of his articles and letters in the national press.

After the war he added to his work for the benefit of the refugees in this country the care for the remnants of European Jewry. He was Vice-Chairman of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad and, in this capacity, one of the architects of the work of the Jewish relief units trained by, and operating under, the auspices of that Committee. Almost immediately after the end of hostilities he resumed his regular visits to Germany and Austria. As a former civil servant he was the ideal link between the Jewish survivors and the occupation authorities, and he became one of the most effective spokesmen of the Jews in the D.P. camps and the newly established communities. This also led to his early participation in efforts which resulted in the Allied legislation on the restitution of property to their original Jewish owners.

It soon became evident that these laws could only be put into effect if the necessary legal assistance was provided for the victims who were entitled to restitution and most of whom were indigent at that time. Thus the United Restitution Organisation came into being in 1948 on the initiative of the Council of Jews from Germany and with the financial help of the major Jewish relief organisations. At the request of the late Dr. Leo Baeck, then President of the Council, Professor Bentwich agreed to become Chairman of URO. It was an onerous office, entailing policy making, negotiations with the German authorities and settlement of questions of internal organisation, including personnel and finances. The

success of URO, from which more than 300,000 Nazi victims all over the world have benefited, is due to a high degree of the wisdom, energy and devotion which marked Professor Bentwich's work at the helm of the organisation.

Professor Bentwich's activities for URO also gave him a deeper insight into the efforts of those German statesmen, politicians and civil servants who strove to "overcome the past" and for the creation of a democratic Germany. This insight, combined with his basic humanitarianism and his rejection of the concept of Germany's collective guilt, made him accept the Grand Federal Cross of Merit in 1968.



[Photo: Laelia Goehr]

All those connected with the work of URO, the Council of Jews from Germany and the AJR have lost a trusted friend. His unreserved devotion to his fellow-men for whose sake no effort was too much for him, will remain a shining example to us all. He never spared himself and his working capacity was inexhaustible. When, together with Mrs. Bentwich, he was one of the guests of honour at the Silver Jubilee Dinner of the AJR, he complimented the German Jews on their sense of solidarity which had made the work of the organisation possible. We knew that he felt attached to our community, but it was good to hear that our feelings for him were reciprocated.

In bidding farewell to Norman Bentwich we may find consolation in the thought that his life was a happy one. He owes this in the first place to his wife, Mrs. Helen Bentwich, and we feel united with her in her sense of bereavement. Yet he also owes his happiness to the fact that he was endowed with a cheerful disposition. He enjoyed life. He enjoyed gathering first-hand experience, near and far, whether it was a Yom Kippur service of new Indian immigrants in Golders Green, or life in a Falasha village, or in a re-established Jewish community in Germany. He was, like the Gauls according to Caesar, "*novarum rerum cupidus*". This kept him young in body and mind. The happiness he radiated immediately resulted in contacts with his fellow-men, big and small, important and humble. It is in this spirit that all of us will cherish his memory.

Eva G. Reichmann

## GREATNESS AND HUMILITY

There seemed to be something indestructible about Professor Norman Bentwich. In other people around us we may witness signs of ageing and be grieved by symptoms of decline. Not so with him. We knew, of course, that he was nearing ninety. But so convincing was his persisting vitality and never-tiring advocacy of the numerous causes he had at heart that we took him for granted as he seemed to do himself. When in the summer of last year he chaired a working dinner of the United Restitution Organisation of which he was the President, full of vigour, visibly happy to have convened a successful and informative get-together, he concluded it with the expression of hope that similar conferences would in future take place every year. Never did he seem to doubt his lasting ability to preside over them. And who, indeed, could have harboured any bad premonitions while seeing him full of forward-looking confidence?

So much greater is now our sense of loss because we never anticipated we might lose him. He was our great and beloved friend. He served, it is true, many causes. But that he, the champion, above all, of Israel and the Hebrew University, should have devoted so much of his time and strength to furthering the interests of the Jews from Germany, filled us with joy and gratitude. It was, we realised, to some degree contradictory to the normal order of things that a man of his origin and standing took up so wholeheartedly the interests of a group of immigrants. He had, indeed, offered his help and given it zealously long before we had found refuge in this country. His name had become some kind of "Scarlet Pimpernel" to our German-Jewish compatriots still under the threat of Nazi tyranny. Thanks to his imagination and energy thousands of potential victims who otherwise would have been doomed, escaped their fate and survived. Norman Bentwich was our guardian angel and life-saver if ever there was one.

It was his human greatness that he did what he did without the faintest aspiration to personal fame. He would, in fact, deny in full seriousness that he had any achievements at all in his favour. He exerted himself because to exert himself for people suffering injustice was his passion, to mitigate their lot the great satisfaction of his life. His selflessness had no limits, his humility no match. His single-minded tenacity was the more endearing because it combined a child-like simplicity with a magnanimous serenity in rare harmony.

We all shall miss him sadly, not as one misses a public figure however much he meant to the life of the community. We shall miss him as our good genius, who eased our past exodus as well as our settling-down in our new surroundings. When we seek him in our memories we shall see him smile. We shall see that characteristic Norman Bentwich smile which was so much more than a facial expression. It radiated a light that burnt in his soul: the light of human goodness in a world whose darkening shadows he strove to overcome.

### A MEMORIAL SERVICE

for Professor Norman Bentwich  
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# THE PHILOSOPHER OF NATIONALISM

In Memory of Hans Kohn

With deep sorrow we learn of the death of Hans Kohn (on March 16) in America, just six months before reaching his eightieth birthday. His work is stupendous. A special 400-page edition of *Orbis*, the American quarterly for the History of Ideas, which he himself helped founding and sustained with frequent brilliant contributions, was dedicated to Hans Kohn on the occasion of his 75th birthday; this was a kind of *Festschrift* with 24 contributions (Winter 1967, Vol. X, No. 4), and a short bibliography attached listed 48 books for the period 1922 to 1967. To this must be added hundreds of essays and scholarly treatises which Kohn wrote for academic and other periodicals (also in Germany during the twenties) and—to mention only a few—for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the *Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences*, and other great reference books, among them the *Jüdisches Lexikon* (Berlin 1927-30). Among his latest works was a long article on "Messianism" written for the "Dictionary of the History of Ideas" which the New York publisher Scribner intended to publish in 1972. As if foreseeing his approaching end, Kohn circulated a 36-page Xerox copy of this manuscript among his friends already at the beginning of 1970. It gives something like an essence of Kohn's interpretation of the forces of history, describing in a concise but documented way the stirring effect of an idea from its roots in religious speculations to its many secular disguises in political movements up to our own time.

## A Universal Mind

It would be a vain attempt, in the limited space available, to give even a faint sketch of Kohn's work as an historian and interpreter of events and ideas, or of his personality. He started within the Jewish orbit and he never lost sight of the very strong Jewish element in his own thinking, but he always linked this with the wider scope of humanity, and in his *Wanderjahre* through an unprecedented revolutionary time and through many countries, ever widening horizons of the complexities of the human condition opened before his eyes and fascinated him. He was one of the now very rare truly universal minds. As a student in Prague he was a fervent Zionist though always more intent on cultural awakening than on purely political trends. For children of assimilated Jewish families this meant a journey of intellectual discovery, culminating in a new conception of humanistic Judaism, not least under the influence of Buber. In this spirit Hans Kohn edited the now famous and often quoted book "*Vom Judentum*" (1913). Later (1930) he wrote the classical biography of Buber (re-issued Cologne 1961), a comprehensive picture of Central European intellectual life of the period. In Prague, Kohn also had his first confrontation with the problems of nationalism. The struggle between Czechs and Germans, with the Jews squeezed in between both, under paternal Austrian rule, was an indication of a brewing portentous conflict which twice set Europe ablaze and changed the face of the world, though in 1913 nobody could foresee the dimensions of this catastrophe.

The First World War was also decisive for Hans Kohn's intellectual and professional development. As an Austrian officer he became a prisoner of war already in 1915 and had to spend five years in the Urals, in Sam-

arkand, and finally in Siberia. He came into contact with Russian common people, also Jews, he witnessed the upheaval caused by the Russian Revolution, the forming of the Czech Legion and its "anabasis" to Vladivostok, and he finally returned via Japan and India to Prague. In Siberia he organised courses and lectures about Zionism but also about general literature and history and became the intellectual leader of a large group of Central European prisoners who never forgot what they owed to him (until, naturally, most of them also had to leave this world). I have still in my possession some manuscripts of lectures which he sent me from Siberia through Red Cross mail, via the Zionist Office in Copenhagen, where one of the lady secretaries was Yetty Wahl, who in 1921 became Hans Kohn's wife. This very month (April) they would have celebrated their Golden Wedding, and our warmest sympathy is due to her who shared with Hans the often difficult tribulations, but also the triumphs of an eventful life.

## Analyst of Oriental Aspirations

In Siberia Hans Kohn discovered his remarkable gift for holding the attention of audiences as a lecturer and teacher; he also discovered the importance and ambiguities of national problems, the struggle of nationalism and imperialism in Asia, and sensed the coming of an age of revolution. Back in Europe and working as a Zionist propagandist in Paris, London and Jerusalem, at the same time visiting many countries from the Balkan to Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo, he devoted all his free time to the study of Asiatic nationalism. He was also correspondent of *Frankfurter Zeitung* and *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, analysing in his articles the fundamental situation of those rapidly changing countries. Mainly in the British Museum his first great book was written, "*Geschichte der Nationalen Bewegung im Orient*" (Berlin, 1928), a pioneer work at the time, later translated into English. There followed three other books on related subjects: "*Nationalismus und Imperialismus im Vorderen Orient*" (Frankfurt, 1931), "*Orient und Okzident*" (Berlin, 1931), "*Die Europäisierung des Orients*" (1934).

A new chapter began when Hans Kohn went to America in 1934, becoming a lecturer at the New School of Social Research and later professor of European History at Smith College. At that time the American public and especially students were almost completely ignorant of the basic trends of European intellectual development and for them Hans Kohn revealed new vistas. America was still in the grips of the Depression and strongly isolationist. In a hectic decade Kohn became one of the foremost protagonists of American support for Western European democracy, against heavy odds. In Kingsley Martin's biography of Harold Laski I recently found the following passage in a letter of June 20, 1940, from Felix Frankfurter\* to Laski: "... The most disquieting aspect is the wide-spread virulent non-interventionism and pacifism of our youth. . . . So far as I know, only the girls in Smith College voted overwhelmingly in favour of giving the allies every aid short of war. At Harvard, Yale, Princeton, wherever you turn, isolationism was registered in the polls. The Smith result . . . proves that Will Neilson's effort to make those girls understand reality, power-

\* Professor at Harvard and later Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

fully supported by Hans Kohn's courses in history—and as you know he was not wanting in rigorous criticism of the post-war settlements—made those girls think hardly, as compared with the sloppy, sleazy stuff that has been handed out by most historians and most political scientists in most American universities. . . ."

Hans Kohn's anti-Hitler crusade was continued in countless public lectures, also at many universities, and in many books and pamphlets. From Smith he went to the City College, New York in 1949. He was also a frequent guest professor at many local American universities like Harvard. After his retirement in 1962 on reaching the age limit he continued teaching at many places in the States, also in England, Switzerland and Germany (Heidelberg and Berlin). Everywhere he made friends.

## Standard Works

During the war his standard work was written: *The Idea of Nationalism* (1944), followed by many books on nationalism in different countries, among them "Prophets and Peoples", "Pan-Slavism", "The Mind of Modern Russia", "The Making of the Modern French Mind", "American Nationalism", "The Mind of Germany" and many others. A short autobiography (1963) "Living in a World Revolution" (the German translation is entitled "*Bürger vieler Welten*", Frauenfeld 1965) sketches the main stations on his long way. It also shows, as do most of his other books, the lucidity and charm of Hans Kohn's style and his astounding familiarity with the poetry of the Western nations. As few others he was aware that political history is closely connected with the inner development of a nation's mind which finds expression in literature, poetry and art. Quite different from modern trends, he saw history first of all as the result of the struggle of ideas, though naturally not ignoring other factors. Though always closely watching reality and fully conscious of the imperfection of the human mind, he did not cease to hope for the victory of reason. But he also knew that in any case that would be a long way, and no panacea, no perfect solution for complex problems existed, "least of all in the recourse to war". He welcomed even the slightest signs of improvement in the human condition, but he warned that reaching for an absolute ideal may produce the opposite results of those hoped for.

Hans Kohn was a member of the Board of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. His personal papers were deposited in the Archives of the Institute with the proviso that they remain sealed for twenty years. The Leo Baeck Institute also published his lecture, given in New York, on "Heinrich Heine: The Man and the Myth" and his booklet "Karl Kraus—Arthur Schnitzler—Otto Weininger. Aus dem jüdischen Wien der Jahrhundertwende".

His insight into the evolution of the Oriental countries and the rise of Arab nationalism, and his doubts about the Zionist policy *vis-à-vis* the Arabs had estranged him from official Zionism already in the early thirties. To him Zionism was an ethical movement closely bound to human values and not based on militancy. He accepted the consequences, disregarding personal and material disadvantages. In 1934, he left Jerusalem and started his academic career in the United States. But we may assume that this parting of the ways left a deep sore in his heart. He was a man of great humanity and nobility, of tenderness of feeling which his shyness often tried to disguise. He loved human beings, thousands of students sought his advice, he was always ready to help where he could. He will be bitterly missed by all who loved him.



Hans Jaeger

## THE MAKING OF A CHANCELLOR

### Willy Brandt's Early Writings

It is very good that the collection of Willy Brandt's essays\* which was first published in Germany in 1966 by Kindler-Verlag, Munich, under the title "Draussen", edited by Guenther Struve, has now been published in Britain, and the London publisher has shown wise political instinct. All those whose world collapsed in 1945, and who still harbour a deep grudge but cannot relieve their bottled up feelings in a straightforward way, have concentrated their polemics against Willy Brandt on the fact that he is a former exile; they think that here he is particularly vulnerable. It is therefore, to be welcomed that, by the translation of the book, the refutation of the mean lies about Brandt has now also been made accessible to an international public.

Of course, narrow-minded philistines cannot put themselves in the position of refugees who sometimes had to have recourse to the most unusual means in order to survive. A Norwegian uniform saved Brandt from being discovered by the Gestapo; a German PoW camp was the best hiding place. He never took part in active fighting. Disguised as a Norwegian student and holding a passport in a Norwegian name, he spent half of the year 1936 in Berlin, at the disposal of a Berlin resistance organisation. After the war, he was attached to the press department of the Norwegian military mission in Berlin with the rank of major. It was a semi-military rank; the description was "civilian officer". He could expect a successful career as a Norwegian. It was the sight of Germany's bitter need which induced him to become a German again. The Norwegians understood; they never resented it. To a certain extent, his return had a parallel in that of Max Brauer who was still an American when he went back to Hamburg. Brauer stayed and, as Hamburg's Lord Mayor, contributed much to the reconstruction of the city.

#### Norway and Spain

Brandt's references to Norway are extremely interesting: the influence of the Norwegian Labour Party on his development from the conception of a class platform to that of a broader people's platform; his excursions into Norwegian history; the story of the invasion in 1940; the role of the Quisling Party now seen in proper proportion; and the brave resistance of the Norwegian people. He also reports the significant fact that General von Falkenhorst who was no Party man and whose relations with the Reich commissar, Terboven, were strained, was a yes-man when it came to breaches of international law (for instance, by having participants in commando raids killed to the last man). Falkenhorst "never plucked up enough courage to come out openly against Nazi crimes" (p.183).

The other pack of lies about the present German Chancellor is related to his role in Spain. Here the distortion of truth was especially easy because of the general confusion about the history of the Spanish Civil War. Even people who would indignantly reject the implication that they had anything to do with the Nazis, use the term "Red Spain", and often in good faith. The reason is that, in the thirties, Germany was cut off from the world as far as news was concerned and that, later

on, nobody bothered to clear things up. In fact, the Spanish Government was democratic. The Communists were not represented in it, and the Communist Party had only 5,000 members. It is true that there was some unrest which was mainly caused by Anarchists and Syndicalists, and the generals used this as a pretext to start a "putsch". Yet things only took a different course when Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany intervened. Then Moscow did the same, though only for a short time. It was at this stage that the hard-pressed régime accepted the help of the Communists who, in turn, so to speak, shot into their own ranks and purged the country of Anarchists, Trotskyites, and the Left Socialist POUM. This "purge" made it easy for the combined Monarchists and the Fascist "Falange" to conquer Catalonia almost without resistance. Republican Spain did not owe very much to the Communists, except trouble. Stalin withdrew support quite suddenly and even instigated a purge among those who had fought in Spain, as Arthur Koestler described so well in his "Darkness at Noon". A prominent Spanish Socialist, the late Araquistain, once gave vent to the suspicion that this *volte-face* by Stalin was already an advance payment for the later pact between Molotov and Ribbentrop.

This is the background one has to keep in mind when one considers the accusations against Willy Brandt. He never fought in Spain. He was there as a press correspondent. Besides, he kept contact with POUM which, to a certain extent, was linked with Brandt's own group, the Socialist Workers Party (SAP). The SAP stood between the SPD and the KPD and was a pre-1933 product of the disappointment felt by the younger members of these two parties. Since then it had gradually worked its way back to the SPD. Brandt's contact with POUM (which, as should be underlined once more, was the first victim of persecution by the Communists) was, in his own words, a "quarrelsome and thankless enough chore" (p.140). The book's chapters about Spain are fascinating and contain much information, showing Brandt as a very gifted journalist who manages to concentrate on essentials and to clear up the most confusing facts.

Of course, the distortions of Brandt's Spanish experience aim at one thing: to shift him as much as possible into the neighbourhood of the Communists. This device plays an important part in the present propaganda of the Right because it serves to throw suspicion on Brandt's policy of détente. In fact, as Richard Loewenthal and others explicitly emphasised, Brandt's policy does not preclude a confrontation with Communism on the ideological plane.

#### "Popular Front"

In this respect, as in others, Willy Brandt has "nothing to hide", to use his own words. Whatever the SAP may have thought at one time or another is now a matter of the past. Brandt was 19 when he left Germany. Even when the SAP advocated a popular front, it was opposed to Communism, and this also applied to its left wing which consisted of ex-Communists, like Paul Froelich. These transitory efforts were only a product of the thirties, when the shadow of Fascism was over Europe. Even a man of the Right wing of the British Labour Party, Sir Stafford Cripps, for some time paid tribute to the illusionary idea

of a popular front of Socialists and Communists, and so did Leon Blum. It was the Fascist danger which indirectly increased the specific weight of Communism. Brandt spoke in the strongest words about the betrayal by Moscow in August 1939. Likewise he showed deep insight into Communist methods, when he accused the Communists of exploiting the victims of the years of struggle for the purpose of their own political objects. "They had no right to set themselves up as the ringmasters of national policies. The war was won through the combined efforts of the Allies, not by the Communist parties" (p.228). In the course of intrigues against Brandt, attempts were even made to influence Kurt Schumacher against him, by referring to his relationship with Jakob Walcher. This man, an ex-Communist, and once Brandt's comrade in the SAP, returned to East Germany to join the SED. Brandt was an old friend of his and he did see him, but he told Walcher that he could not follow his path, that a unified party could only rest on a democratic foundation and that he stood by the principles of democratic socialism (p.250). He added that "one should never give up trying to win over honourably minded Communists".

#### Critical of Vansittart

What Brandt says about German problems has become so well known by now that it is not necessary to go into detail. One aspect should, however, be touched upon: his attitude to Vansittartism. Here, Willy Brandt may have overlooked the fact that Vansittart's "Black Record", which was indeed a rather clumsy pamphlet and indulged in exaggerations, was meant as a work of propaganda against those who pleaded for a separate peace with the Third Reich (this would explain Vansittart's crude generalisations); it did not imply that the refugees, who were bound to be touchy and treated unfairly, were to be lumped together with the others. Besides, Vansittart was in practice quite different, and after the war he even put up with German rearmament. But apart from this, Brandt shows a very balanced assessment of the pamphlet, quite different from those who reacted hysterically against it. He states that Vansittart's arguments were worthy of more serious attention. He admits that some aspects of Nazism were deeply rooted and that the reason for their mass appeal was that for many Germans the nationalistic aims of the Nazis carried more weight than what was euphemistically called their "mistakes". Brandt says that various anti-Vansittartists demonstrated an evident ignorance of the facts (p.116), Fascism acquired its strongest and most dangerous exponents in Germany (p.118) and the opponents of Vansittartism did not make light of the German Fascist terror which was unequalled in modern times (p.120). Too many Germans allowed themselves to be used as tools of the real terrorists.

Jewish affairs are mentioned only once. The reference is, however, important because sometimes the wrong impression arose that the Chancellor had no deep relationship to the Jewish problem. The book contains (pp.219/20) a resolution by the international group of democratic Socialists in Stockholm which is dated April 21, 1944. Here, the emphasis is put on saving the lives of Jews, on an energetic campaign against antisemitism and racial discrimination, on sympathy towards the work of reconstruction in the "Jewish national home in Palestine" (it was in 1944) which had saved more Jews than any other country, and further development of this national home, as well as on restitution for the crimes committed by Hitler's Germany.

\* Willy Brandt: In Exile. Essays, Reflections and Letters, 1933-1947. Translated from German by R. W. Last. Biographical Introduction by Terence Prittie. Oswald Wolff Publishers Ltd., London. 264pp. £3.00.

Herbert Freedman

## THE "BLACK PANTHERS" OF JERUSALEM

"All this talk about Russian Jews bugs me. They never made any fuss about the Jews in Iraq. We know why they want the Russian Jews, it's because they think they're all scientists. They think Oriental Jews are stupid". Meir, age 22, who makes this statement belongs to one of the 25, or so, street gangs in Jerusalem, comprising on the average 15-25 members who neither work nor study. Their background is sombre: wide circles of "Sephardim", Oriental Jews, watch embittered how new immigrants receive comfortable flats on easy terms and are provided with jobs, while they remain crowded in slums without employment.

It started off with youngsters of the ages between 14 and 25, forming themselves into groups which met in discotheques, cafés and empty lots to while away their time. Because most of them have police records, they cannot find jobs. It is a vicious circle—anyone with a police record is rejected by the army and without a clean army record there is no chance of obtaining work—which means that such youngsters end up as recidivists for the rest of their lives.

Usually, they begin tangling with the police as kids in school, with petty thieving and truancy. Almost all of them hail from North Africa or from the Arab countries of Asia Minor, typical cases of underprivileged youth, one of many—sometimes up to ten—children per family, housed in crammed quarters in the Katamon and Musrara districts of Jerusalem. They are filled with a twofold hatred—against the Arabs who in their countries of origin oppressed and persecuted them, and against the "Ashkenasim", the Western Jews, who in their opinion do not accept them as their equals.

What in the first instance was a problem of juvenile delinquency, more and more assumed a wider social and political connotation: resentment against Western Jews coincides with resentment against the "Establishment" which they identify with Western Jewish society, and some time ago, those young Oriental Jews, in the American fashion, set themselves up as "Black Panthers". "We have no formal membership, we are about 300 and we all know who we are", says their "spokesman". The "Panthers", he adds, are also planning to wear uniforms. What they want? To show the "Establishment" that they exist and that they won't stand for discrimination.

A social worker, himself born in Morocco, who has contacts with them does not take their "revolutionary" motivation too seriously: "These boys, unlike the blacks in America, want to be inside society. They don't want to be left out. They crave just for the same things as everybody else—money, status, and so on. Today they play the 'angry young men' because they see so many things around they can't get—luxury flats and fast cars, and they're looking for a short cut".

"I'm for the Panthers", says Eli (age 21) who was rejected by the army because of his criminal record, and who is unemployed, "I feel like a black in Israel. When I was 16 I came from Morocco and I haven't had any schooling or training since then". When they are being offered work, they are very choosy and tend to reject it. What they want are jobs with a "status", like drivers, electricians, waiters for which they are not trained.

Such youth gangs cannot live in a political vacuum and it is, therefore, not surprising that radical groups of the New Left have been

trying to take them under their wings. "There is now more interaction between students, including those from overseas, and underprivileged Oriental youth", admits a "Panther", "we share a common language—hash". None of them has ever heard of "Extra-parliamentary opposition", or of Marcuse, but some ideas of the ultra-left circles, such as "Matzpen" ("Compass") and "Siah" ("Israel's New Left") have caught on.

When the "Panthers" for the first time tried to arouse public opinion, their demonstration was banned by the police who, after having discovered that the demonstration was to take place even without a permit, arrested 14 of their leaders. Though some were freed almost immediately, enough were still locked up to provide a public protest meeting of 300-400 "Panthers" and sympathisers with slogans such as "Free the prisoners" and "End discrimination". The police who expected an assault on their headquarters, appeared behind barricades with helmets and shields, nightsticks and water cannons. Why were the arrests made? I enquired. "Conspiring at an illegal act—a demonstration". And why was the demonstration declared illegal? "Because most of those applying for a permit, have criminal records".

"Every week the police come round to pick us up", charges one of the "Black Panthers" who is clad entirely in white. Author Dan Ben Amotz and journalist Amos Keyman acted as their spokesmen: they protested against the infringement of every citizen's right to demonstrate. The anticipated onslaught against police headquarters did not materialise. Instead, Mayor Teddy Kollek appeared on the scene and seeing that the demonstrators were standing on the freshly sown lawn, he asked them to move so as not to trample down the young grass.

Without as much as a murmur, the "Panthers" withdrew to the roadside.

### LIVERPOOL LINK WITH ASHDOD

The first container-ship link between Britain and Israel was established early in February when first the 1,600 ton *Tua* and then the *Manchester Merit* docked at Ashdod. Their arrival marked the inauguration of the first all-container cargo service between the two countries. The *Tua* and her sister-ship *Yibon* will sail regularly between Liverpool and Ashdod every twelve days. The ships are being operated jointly by the Israeli national shipping line *Zim* and the British companies of *Ellermann* and *Papayanni* and *Moss Hutchison*. *Manchester Liners*, operators of the *Manchester Merit*, plan two monthly sailings to Israel.

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## SCIENCE AND RESEARCH IN ISRAEL

### "New" Element Discovered

The Israeli scientist, Amnon Marinov, 41, son of the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, Haim Marinov, heads a team of British scientists which believes it has discovered a new super heavy element.

Theoretical studies undertaken over the past few years have indicated the possible existence of super heavy elements with an atomic number of about 114. Dr. Marinov had put forward suggestions for a series of experiments designed to produce and identify such super heavy elements. His proposals were accepted by the Rutherford High Energy Laboratory at Chilton, near Didcot, England, and the laboratory placed at his disposal a team of researchers and appropriate research equipment.

The experiments conducted by his team seem to support the possibility of the existence of a stable super heavy element 112, although they do not yet prove it conclusively.

### Swamp Fever Serum Developed

A vaccine against swamp fever, a disease which attacks both humans and animals, has been developed at the Biological Research Institute in Ness Ziona by Dr. Michael Turtan and Dr. Esther Sheinberg.

The disease which is particularly widespread in Galilee, causes acute jaundice and even blindness, and in some cases damage to liver and kidneys. The vaccine was manufactured from cultures taken from Galilee residents suffering from the disease. Foreign drug firms are exhibiting keen interest in the new vaccine, as no effective vaccination against swamp fever has yet been produced anywhere.

### Ultra Low Temperatures Achieved

A temperature of 0.030 degrees C. (0.055 degrees F.) above the absolute zero (-273.15 C., -532.67 F.) has been reached in a dilution refrigerator designed and built by Dr. Judah Landau, 28, and Dr. Ralph Rosenbaum, 31, new American immigrant scientists in the Physics Department of the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology), Haifa.

By an inviolable law of physics, the absolute zero can never be reached and every new attempt to get closer to it becomes increasingly difficult. Despite this, the new refrigerator has been planned to eventually reach 0.001 C. above absolute zero and is to be used to study the fundamental physical properties of solids and liquids at ultra low temperatures, and also to assist in the establishment of an international temperature scale.

A number of laboratories throughout the world have been working on the development of similar low temperature refrigerators which are essential for many research projects.

H.F.

### RADIO LONDON

Under the general editorial direction of the BBC, regular Jewish programmes have begun on Radio London sponsored by the Board of Deputies. Mr. Michael Freedland, a 36-year-old journalist, has been appointed executive producer of the programmes, and will be receiving an honorarium from the Board to cover the cost of production and personal expenses.

### ABORTION TRIAL

At the Tel Aviv trial of Dr. Paul Elias on charges of performing illegal abortions, he told the court that most of the operations were carried out for social, psychological or economic reasons, and that fewer than one per cent were performed to save human life or because of other complications.

Dr. Elias alleged that the fact that the mass of abortions were performed in contravention of the strict letter of the law was known to the police, the Welfare Ministry and the hospitals, which "looked the other way".

# RESTITUTION NEWS

## VERBESSERUNGEN IN DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN OPFERFUERSORGESETZGEBUNG

Die am 4. Dezember 1970 im Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Oesterreich BGBl. Nr. 352 verlautebarte 21. Opferfürsorgegesetznovelle enthält unter anderem eine Verbesserung, die für einen allerdings nicht zu grossen Teil der aus Oesterreich stammenden Emigranten von Belang ist. Es sind dies die Hinterbliebenen—Witwen und Kinder—nicht mehr am Leben befindlicher Opfer nationalsozialistischer Verfolgung, die in Haft waren. Diesen Hinterbliebenen stand bereits eine Entschädigung für die von Gatten bzw. den Eltern erlittene Haft zu. Kindern nicht mehr am Leben befindlicher in Haft gewesener Eltern gebührt die Entschädigung, falls sie im Zeitpunkt der Inhaftnahme oder der Besetzung Oesterreichs im Jahre 1938 von den Eltern ganz oder zum überwiegenden Teil erhalten worden waren oder hätten erhalten werden müssen.

Bisher betrug die Haftentschädigung für Hinterbliebene nach einem Opfer ö.S 430.— für jeden Haftmonat. Für zeitlich zusammenfallende Haftmonate der hinterbliebenen Witwe mit ihrem Gatten gebührte bisher für jeden Haftmonat ein Betrag von ö.S 860.—. Ausserdem wird ihr ein Betrag von ö.S 10.000.— gewährt, wenn der Gatte in der Haft verstorben ist. Für Kinder, die selbst in Haft waren und deren Eltern ebenfalls inhaftiert waren, betrug die Haftentschädigung für jeden zeitlich zusammenfallenden Haftmonat ö.S 860.—. Hierzu konnte noch für die eigene Haft eine weitere Entschädigung von ö.S 350.— für jeden Haftmonat gewährt werden.

Nun ist der bisherige Entschädigungsbetrag von ö.S 860.— monatlich für gemeinsame Haftzeiten—sowohl im Falle von Witwen wie von Kindern—auf ö.S 1.290.— erhöht worden. Auf diese nunmehr zustehende Leistung wird jedoch der allenfalls schon geleistete Betrag von ö.S 10.000.— bzw. die für den Verlust der Freiheit gewährte Entschädigung von ö.S 350.— für jeden eigenen Haftmonat angerechnet. Die Auszahlung der Erhöhung muss beim Amt der Wiener Landesregierung, Magistratsabteilung 12, Wien I., Gonzagagasse 23, A 1010 Wien I., beantragt werden. Dort können auch Personen, die bisher noch keinen Antrag auf Haftentschädigung gestellt haben, dies nachholen. Weder für den Antrag auf Gewährung von Haftentschädigung, noch für die Beantragung des Erhöhungsbetrages bestehen Fristen. Voraussetzung ist der Besitz der österreichischen Staatsbürgerschaft am 13.3.1938 oder der mehr als zehnjährige ununterbrochene Wohnsitz in Oesterreich zu diesem Datum. (Für Kinder, die erst nach dem 13. März 1928 geboren wurden, muss die Voraussetzung des zehnjährigen Aufenthaltes der verstorbenen Eltern erfüllt sein.)

Auf dem Gebiet der Rentenfürsorge ist für Witwen von Opfern eine Verbesserung von Belang. Der Anspruch auf eine Rente ist an den Besitz einer sogenannten "Amtsbescheinigung" gebunden. Opfer, die vor dem 28. März 1957 noch keine Amtsbescheinigung hatten oder nach diesem Datum eine fremde Staatsbürgerschaft erwarben, hatten bisher keinen Rentenauspruch. Daran hat sich nichts geändert. Hingegen stand und steht weiterhin Witwen, deren Gatte in der Haft oder aus deren Folgen verstorben ist, eine solche Amtsbescheinigung zu (die meistens schon früher ausgestellt wurde), auch wenn sie eine fremde Staatsbürgerschaft angenommen und die österreichische Staatsbürgerschaft verloren haben.

Durch die Novelle wurde verfügt, dass Inhaber von Amtsbescheinigungen einen Anspruch auf Rentenfürsorge haben, obwohl sie vom Hilfsfonds Zuwendungen erhalten haben. Daher können jetzt Witwen, auf welche die im obigen Absatz angeführten Voraussetzungen zutreffen, trotz des Erhaltes einer Hilfsfondsleistung eine Witwenrente, ebenfalls beim Amt der Wiener Landesregierung, Magistratsabteilung 12, beantragen.

Die Witwenrente—die unabhängig vom sonstigen Einkommen gebührt und die ab Antragmonat geleistet wird—beträgt derzeit monatlich ö.S 373.—. Falls das Einkommen den Betrag von ö.S 1.801.— nicht erreicht, kann auch ein Antrag auf Unterhaltsrente gestellt werden.

F.L.B.

## ZUR NOVELLE ZUM DEUTSCHEN SOZIALVERSICHERUNGSRECHT

Die Notiz in der März-Ausgabe von AJR Information gibt zu folgenden Bemerkungen Anlass:

### I

Die Nachversicherung von Beiträgen ist in denjenigen Fällen von besonderer Wichtigkeit, in denen nur eine gemeinsame deutsch-britische Rente auf Grund des deutsch-britischen Gegenseitigkeitsabkommens gezahlt wird, weil die deutsche Versicherungszeit weniger als 180 Monate (oder im Falle von Witwen- und Waisenrenten weniger als 60 Monate) beträgt. Es ist in der Regel zweckmässig, die Versicherungszeit zumindest auf 181 Monate auszudehnen, weil dann ein zusätzliches Versicherungsjahr in der Regel bei der Rentenberechnung zu berücksichtigen ist. Die Nachversicherung kostet in der niedrigsten Klasse zur Zeit pro Monat DM 17.—.

Nachversicherung ist in der Regel bei jedem Verfolgten möglich, der auch nur einen einzigen Beitrag zur deutschen Sozialversicherung entrichtet hat, da sich zusammen mit den Ersatzzeiten der NS-Verfolgung normalerweise eine Versicherungszeit von zumindest 60 Monaten ergibt.

### II

Die Ersatzzeiten der NS-Verfolgung sind jetzt praktisch den Beitragszeiten gleichgestellt. Soweit nicht bereits geschehen, sind sie nunmehr zu bewerten, wenn dies zu einer günstigeren Rente führt. Sie sind jetzt auch stets bei der Berechnung der Ausfallzeiten zu berücksichtigen.

Es empfiehlt sich daher in allen Fällen, in denen Renten irgendwelcher Art gewährt werden, einen Antrag auf Neuberechnung der Rente zu stellen, da diese von Amtswegen nicht vorgenommen wird.

### III

Als Ausfallzeiten sind nunmehr Zeiten von Lehrzeit, Fachschulbesuch, Studium und Hochschul—Ausbildung auch dann anzurechnen, wenn die Lehrzeit oder die Ausbildung aus

Verfolgungsgründen nicht abgeschlossen werden konnte. Ein entsprechender Antrag ist erforderlich.

### IV

In vielen Fällen sind Verfolgte in Deutschland nicht mehr versichert gewesen und zum ersten Mal in Grossbritannien von der britischen Sozialversicherung erfasst worden. Würden sie nunmehr in Deutschland eine versicherungspflichtige Beschäftigung aufgenommen haben, so würden ihnen die Ersatzzeiten der NS-Verfolgung angerechnet werden. Ich stehe auf dem Standpunkt, dass ihnen diese Ersatzzeiten auch zu gewähren sind, wenn sie nur in Grossbritannien der britischen Sozialversicherung angehören und eine sonstige deutsche Versicherungszeit nicht besteht, und dass für diese Ersatzzeit gegebenenfalls Rente zu gewähren ist. Dies ist meine persönliche Ansicht. Eine Entscheidung über diese Frage ist mir aber noch nicht bekannt.

DR. L. G. T. KING

## RECHTSMITTEL GEGEN ENTSCHEIDUNGEN DER FOREIGN COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Den Lesern dieser Zeitschrift dürfte bekannt sein, dass durch Staatsverträge zwischen Grossbritannien und Ländern des Ostblocks die Entschädigung für Personen und Gesellschaften geregelt wurde, die durch Nationalisierungsakte dieser Länder geschädigt wurden. Das umständliche Verfahren bestand darin, dass Grossbritannien auf Grund der abgeschlossenen Verträge einen höheren Pauschalbetrag von diesen Ländern erhielt und ihn in London an die Geschädigten auszahlte, wenn alle gesetzlichen Voraussetzungen, insbesondere die britische Staatsangehörigkeit und deren Erlangung zu einem jeweils bestimmten Zeitpunkt, erfüllt waren. Die letzte dieser Orders bezog sich auf die Sowjet-Republik. Ihr waren alle zum Ostblock gehörigen Länder mit der einzigen Ausnahme der Sowjetzone Deutschlands (Deutsche Demokratische Republik) vorausgegangen. Die in den Orders festgesetzten und von der Kommission streng eingehaltenen Anmeldefristen sind sämtlich abgelaufen, so dass zur Zeit keine neuen derartigen Anmeldungen eingereicht werden können.

Wenn dieser kurze Artikel sich trotzdem mit den Ansprüchen befasst, so geschieht dies wegen einer neueren Entscheidung des House of Lords. Wie bekannt sein dürfte, bestanden die überwiegenden Entscheidungen der Kommission in Ablehnungen. Die Ablehnungen gaben häufig keine Gründe für die Verweigerung des Anspruches. Die Kommission betonte darüberhinaus in ihren Entscheidungen, dass nach den jeweils ergangenen Orders ihre Entscheidung "shall not be called in question in any Court of Law", also keinem Rechtsmittel unterliege.

Das House of Lords hat in einer neueren Entscheidung einstimmig entschieden, dass die Gerichte trotz dieser Klausel angerufen werden können, wenn die Kommission bei ihren Bescheiden Fragen mit entschieden hat, über die sie nach den zugrundeliegenden Orders keine Rechtsprechung hatte, und hat im dem House vorliegenden Einzelfall mit einer Stimmenmehrheit von 3 zu 2 entschieden, dass bei ihm die Kommission tatsächlich ihre Rechtsprechungsbefugnis überschritten hatte.

Sicherlich handelt es sich dabei um einen Ausnahmefall, der selten sein dürfte. Trotzdem in der ganz überwiegenden Anzahl der Fälle die Anrufung des House of Lords nicht mehr in Betracht kommen dürfte, wird der Fall als solcher viele interessieren, die mit der Foreign Compensation Commission zu tun hatten oder noch zu tun haben.

DR. B. MANNES  
Senatspräsident a.D.

ALL AJR MEMBERS and all our other  
friends are cordially invited to our next  
meeting with

### ERIC MOONMAN, M.Sc.

Author and Broadcaster  
(former M.P. for Billericay and former Research  
Fellow of the University of Manchester)

who will speak on

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on THURSDAY, MAY 20, at 8.30 p.m., at  
Hannah Karminski House (side entrance),  
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K.I.V. IN GREAT BRITAIN

# EIN BAND GEDICHTE

E. G. Lowenthal

A JEWISH GENEALOGIST

Vielen ist Eran Laor bekannt, Ein führender Funktionär der Jewish Agency, ihr European Treasurer, ein Mann, der seit Jahrzehnten eine schwere Arbeitslast und Verantwortung trägt, still-selbstverständlich trägt. Nur wenige von uns kennen den anderen Eran Laor, den Dichter-Philosophen, den Mahner und Lehrer, den Autor von "Vier Briefe an die Juden", der tiefgründigen philosophischen Essays "Die Grosse Einheit" und anderer.

Laor wurde zu Beginn dieses Jahrhunderts in der Slowakei geboren, die zu dieser Zeit ein Teil der ungarischen Hälfte der Habsburgischen Monarchie war. Die Sprache in der er aufwuchs, war Ungarisch und schon als Gymnasiast sah er seine ersten Gedichte gedruckt—in Ungarisch. Dann, nach 1918, kam die Zeit der antisemitischen Reaktion in Ungarn, der Pogrome. Laor ging nach Wien und schwur, nie mehr eine Zeile Ungarisch zu schreiben. Er griff nach der, bis dahin ihm fast fremden, deutschen Sprache. Er, dem Schreiben und Dichten zu späten Nachtstunden immer ein unabdingbarer Teil seines Lebens waren, kniete sich in Klang und Form der "neuen" Sprache ein und nach zwei Jahren Studium ist Deutsch die Sprache seiner Schriften und Verse geworden.

Es spiegelt die Tragoedie des zentral-europäischen Judentums wider, dass Laor in einem jüngst erschienenen Gedichtband\* sich gleichsam vor sich selber entschuldigt, dass er deutsch schreibe:

Warum schreibe ich Deutsch?  
Eine fremde  
befremdende Sprache  
Sie wurde mir nicht vererbt  
ich hab sie mir schwer erworben

\* Eran Laor: Der Himmel stürzt ein, Die Welt geht unter. Verlag Typographische Anstalt Wien VII, Halb-gasse 9.

ich hab sie bewusst erkoren  
zu einer Zeit  
als wir noch an Euch glaubten  
als der Klang Eurer Worte  
uns heilig war  
Ihr habt unsern Glauben  
in Blut erstickt  
Der Heiligenschein zerschellte  
im barbarischen Getöse  
Nun blieb ich allein  
mit der Sprache der Dichter und Denker  
Ich liebe sie nicht  
und hasse sie nicht  
bediene mich ihrer  
wie die Mönche einst  
sich des Lateins bedienten

Laor sagt von sich, dass er sich der deutschen Sprache "bediene". In Wirklichkeit meistert er sie in einem Grade, wie es wenigen anderen deutschen Dichtern juedischer Abstammung gegeben war. Hören wir zu:

Ich habe mir Worte erkoren  
die ich am Strassenrand aufgelesen  
wo sie andere verloren  
für die sie nur Spreu gewesen  
Sie strahlen in neuem Lichte  
ich staune sie an wie ein Kind  
und seh in ihnen Gesichte  
die andren verschwunden sind  
Geheim und voller Bedeutung  
ist das bescheidenste Wort  
und findet seine Deutung  
an dem gebührenden Ort  
So dichte ich ohne Bedenken  
drauflos und ohne Zwang  
lass mich von einem nur lenken  
dem Klang

Ein Vergleich mit dem mühelosen Fließen der Sprache Heines draengt sich auf, doch dann finden wir "An der Bahre eines Freundes" gesprochen und im Schlusszyklus "Zusammenschau" eine andere Sprache—biblische Psalmen im neuen Gewande.

Ein Band Gedichte "von Weisheit geleitet und Von Schoenheit verkläert". C.K.

## 100th Anniversary of Arthur Czellitzer's Birth

April 5th was the 100th anniversary of the ophthalmologist, Dr. Arthur Czellitzer, who also attained distinction by his research into heredity and Jewish genealogy. Dr. Czellitzer was born in Breslau; he practised in Berlin, and, in 1938, found refuge with his family at Breda in Holland, where he was interned in 1943 and then deported to the East. No one knows anything about the way he met his end. His large and valuable archives, which Dutch friends hid for some time, were finally discovered and burnt.

When Dr. Czellitzer founded the "Gesellschaft für Jüdische Familienforschung" in Berlin in 1924, he was influenced by the genetics theory of Gregor Mendel and inspired by a profound understanding of Jewish history. He set up archives of Jewish genealogical material, in which documents, wills, memoirs, chronicles, family histories, family trees, etc., were listed and scientifically assessed. A little later he founded the quarterly journal "Mitteilungen der Gesellschaft fuer juedische Familienforschung"; this came out later as a monthly, called "Juedische Familienforschung", and at times included search leaflets designed to give mutual assistance in genealogical work. The journal aroused considerable interest, particularly after 1933. As a practical guide to independent genealogical work Czellitzer published in 1934 a small informative booklet entitled "Mein Stammbaum" (Philo-Verlag, Berlin); it was useful, in particular, for providing the sources for carrying out research into Jewish families.

A few of his manuscripts have found their way into the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. Among them are notes on the Czellitzer family, traceable since 1640 at Zuelz in Upper Silesia, and on his own youth and university years.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## DR. SIEGFRIED M. AUERBACH

Dr. Siegfried M. Auerbach died suddenly on April 8 in his 85th year. He was full of vigour up to the very end. It so happened that we met only a few hours before his death. As always, he related some anecdotes typical of Jewish life in his beloved home town of Frankfurt.

Prior to his emigration, Dr. Auerbach was associated with the Deutsche Metallgesellschaft (Frankfurt) for almost 30 years. He came to this country in 1936 and worked as a business consultant. A member of an old family of rabbis, he published a genealogy of the descendants of Rabbi Abraham Auerbach of Bonn (1763-1845), his great-grandfather. It comprised 1,200 names of descendants and their spouses, denoting in each case the relevant biographical data. The work, which appeared in 1957, was followed by four supplements (1960, 1962, 1965 and 1970). It is one of the most comprehensive German-Jewish genealogies and certainly the most elaborate one, as far as comments and layout are concerned.

Dr. Auerbach's deep interest in historiography was also reflected in his active participation in the work of the Committee for the History of the Jews in Frankfurt. He also has a monograph on the German Metal Trade to his credit (published in the L.B.I. Year Book 1965). He was a member of the B'nai B'rith since 1913 and served as president of the Frankfurt Lodge in 1928-29.

It was only natural for a personality of his background to associate himself with the AJR shortly after its inception. He soon became a member of the AJR Board and always took a great interest in our efforts. He also repeatedly contributed articles to "AJR Information". By his wide range of interests, his

amiable disposition and his sense of humour he endeared himself to all who knew him.

Dr. Auerbach had the good fortune of a happy family life, by the side of his wife, on whom age has left its mark as little as it had on him. It was also a source of pleasure and pride for him that he lived to see his great-grandchildren growing up. We extend our sincerest sympathy to Mrs. Auerbach and the members of her family.

W.R.

## DR. KURT LEWIN

The social worker and Israeli diplomat, Dr. Kurt (Daniel) Lewin, died at the age of 62. He was born in Berlin, where he had embarked on a legal career and was also well known for his achievements as a sportsman. During the first three post-war years, Kurt Lewin was the principal representative of the Jewish Agency in Bergen-Belsen and, in this capacity, effectively worked for the benefit of the D.P.s in the camp. Later, he joined the Israeli diplomatic services and held responsible posts in several countries.

## GEORG FREUND

The journalist, Georg Freund, died in Frankfurt/Main in his 90th year. He started his career before the First World War with the Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger. From 1922-1933 he was Deputy Chief Editor of the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung. He was also a member of the Supreme Court of Honour of the German Press and of the Court in charge of arbitration between publishers and editors. In 1939, Freund emigrated to Uruguay where, for almost 20 years, he was the editor of the "Bulletin Informativo", the organ of the German-Jewish congregation "Nueva Congregacion Israelita". He returned to Germany in 1961. —(EGL)

## FROM THE ISRAELI SCENE

### PASSOVER MESSAGE TO MOSCOW

Rabbi Y. L. Levin, the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, in his Moscow synagogue recently attacked Israel and denounced "Zionist attacks" on the Soviet Union. An exchange of greetings for Passover and the New Year has become customary between the Chief Rabbis of Moscow and Israel and, in his message to Rabbi Levin, the Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Itzhak Nissim, was evidently prompted by this speech. Rabbi Nissim said: "When young people risk their lives, it does not behove you to stand aside. . . . I pray that the Almighty who has aroused the hearts of our brethren in Russia to shake off the dust of humiliation will bestow courage on you and will bless all our brothers in peace. As head of the Jewish community in the Soviet capital it behoves you to support all those who try to preserve the embers of Judaism and to sustain it".

### TEMPLE SCROLL IN SHOE-BOX

Professor Yigal Yadin recently stated in Jerusalem that a torn fragment stuck together with a British postage stamp led to the discovery of the 2,000-year old Temple Scroll hidden in a shoe-box in the Arab quarter of Jerusalem. He revealed for the first time details of a search which lasted seven years and cut across the lines of the Middle East conflict until the largest of the Dead Sea scrolls was safely deposited with the Israeli Government. Professor Yadin told a historical convention that while in England in 1961 a man claiming to be an agent of an Arab antique dealer in the Jordan sector of Jerusalem offered to sell him the scroll for between £400,000 and £800,000. After much haggling the sum of £40,000 was agreed. But the go-between disappeared and it was not until after the 1967 Six-Day War that Professor Yadin found the antique dealer who kept the scroll wrapped in a plastic bag in an old shoe-box.

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## BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

### DR. FRITZ FRIEDLAENDER 70

On May 17 Dr. Fritz Friedlaender (Melbourne) will celebrate his 70th birthday. He first made a name for himself in 1926, when his biography of Gabriel Riesser, the fighter for Jewish emancipation in Germany, was published. The work was based on his doctor thesis at Berlin University, written under the tutelage of his venerated teacher, Friedrich Meinecke. A scholarly work of the first order, it also served as a political weapon to those who fought for the endangered rights of the Jews in Germany during the 'twenties and early 'thirties. Subsequent events seemed to have proved them wrong. Yet for the past ten years or so, historiography of German Jewry has again devoted itself to an unbiased research of the emancipation period, and though the conclusions are bound to differ from those arrived at before the Holocaust, works like Friedlaender's Riesser biography have regained topicality. His second book dealt with the subject "Heine and Goethe" (1926). Friedlaender's preoccupation with the Jewish problem helped him to live up to the situation with which the German Jews were faced from 1933 onwards. He became a widely esteemed contributor to the learned periodicals, such as "Der Morgen" and the "Monatszeitschrift fuer die Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland", and to weeklies, e.g., the "C.V. Zeitung", the Berlin Jewish Gemeindeblatt, and the "Juedisch-liberale Zeitung". A secondary school teacher by profession, he also put himself at the disposal of the schools of the Jewish community. His article in the "Year Book 1958" of the Leo Baeck Institute

bears witness to his experiences during that period.

Arrested during the November, 1938, pogroms, he had to endure the tribulations of Sachsenhausen concentration camp. After his release he left for Shanghai, one of the few escape routes open in those days. There, again, he worked for his fellow-Jews as a member of the editorial staff of the Shanghai Jewish Chronicle and as a lecturer to Jewish adolescent classes.

Since 1946 Fritz Friedlaender has been living in Melbourne. His journalistic activities are not restricted to that country and include, last but not least, contributions to AJR Information. His articles excel not only by the expert knowledge on which they are based but also by his capacity for giving them a personal touch, whenever he portrays an outstanding representative of German Jewry in the past.

We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to our friend and colleague, Fritz Friedlaender.  
W.R.

### MRS. EVA EHRENBERG 80

Mrs. Eva Ehrenberg recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Like her husband, the historian Professor Victor Ehrenberg, she has always taken a deep interest in the work of the AJR and of the Leo Baeck Institute. Jews from Germany are particularly indebted to her because, in her vividly written autobiographical work, "Sehnsucht mein geliebtes Kind. Bekenntnisse und Erinnerungen" (Ner Tamid Verlag, Frankfurt, now Erlangen, 1963) she depicted the life of the highly cultured stratum of German Jewry from which she stems. The book was also used for a radio play by Paul Schallueck (Westdeutscher and Hessischer Rundfunk) and Karla Hoecker (RIAS).

Mrs. Ehrenberg also wrote many poems, among them "Res Nostra" (about emigration), and some prose. Furthermore, she translated into German Dante's "Divina Commedia" and "Vita Nuova" and other works from English and Italian. Using the early letters of her father, Oberlandesgerichtsrat Dr. S. Sommer, she published "Light on the Kaiser" in the Contemporary Review, May 1964.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Ehrenberg still suffers from the effects of an accident she had two years ago. Yet notwithstanding her present handicap she will, we are sure, derive happiness from her own achievements as well as from the successes of her husband and her two sons both of whom are also university teachers in this country. We express our sincerest birthday wishes to Mrs. Eva Ehrenberg.

### MR. PAUL FRANKFURTHER 80

On May 6, Mr. Paul Frankfurter, a member of the AJR since its inception, will be 80. Before his emigration he was a partner in the textile factories of H. Sternberg Jr. (Berlin and Bunzlau), founded by his grandfather in 1857. In England, Mr. Frankfurter became a self-taught inventor in the chemical field and, *inter alia*, created the "Dip" starcher and "Pafra" adhesives.

From his early boyhood onwards, Mr. Frankfurter has also devoted himself to music; he composed numerous songs as well as small choral works and chamber music. Some of his songs were performed in Germany by Susanne Stein (under the auspices of the "Juedische Kulturbund"), and in this country by Janet Baker, Lawrence Watts, Cristina Clarke and others. They were also broadcast from Norway and New Zealand. When, at the beginning of his stay in this country, Paul Frankfurter had no piano at his disposal, he switched over to writing and poetry. He is the author of two full length stage plays ("Das Erkerfenster" and "Staatsraison"), short stories, poems and a number of aphorisms.

We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to our friend, Mr. Paul Frankfurter.

### FAMILY EVENTS

#### Birthdays

**Stern.**—Mr. Ludwig Stern, of 94 Hodford Road, London, N.W.11, will celebrate his 95th birthday on May 8.

#### Deaths

**Alexander.**—Mr. Alfred Alexander passed away on April 4. Deeply mourned by his loving and devoted wife, Anna, his daughter, Beatrice, son-in-law, Julian, and grandson, Adam.

**Benjamin.**—Dr. M. F. Benjamin, of 116 Chalkhill Road, Wembley Park, Middlesex, passed away on March 31. Deeply mourned by his wife. Sadly missed by his friends.

**Feldman.**—Mrs. Regina Feldman, of 13b Warrington Crescent, London, W.9 (formerly Vienna), died suddenly on March 17.

**Flesch.**—Mrs. Berta Flesch died on April 23 in New York, aged 88.

**Friedlander.**—Mrs. Lilli Friedlander, of 88 Sevington Road, London, N.W.4, passed away on April 19, in her 79th year. Deeply mourned by her daughters, son-in-law, grandson and many friends.

**Goeritz.**—Our dear mother, Senta, widow of Eric Goeritz, passed away on March 28. Deeply mourned by her sons, Thomas and Andrew, daughters-in-law, Rachel and Raymonde, and grandchildren, David, Louise and Michelle.

**Jaffé.**—Dr. Else Jaffé, of 15 Gwendor Road, London, W.14 (formerly Berlin/Hamburg), died in hospital on March 22. Deeply mourned by her sister-in-law, nieces and nephews, cousins, her other relatives as well as her many friends.

**Kamnitzer.**—Miss Anna Kamnitzer, of Otto Schiff House, 14 Netherhall Gardens, London, N.W.3, died on April 13, in her 82nd year. Sadly missed by Lilly Koslitschek and all her friends and colleagues at the Jewish Hospital in Breslau.

**Liebmann.**—Mrs. Margarete Liebmann (née Blumenthal), of Osmond House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2, passed away on April 15, in her 98th year. Deeply mourned by her family and friends.

**Löwensberg.**—Mr. Jacob Löwensberg, from Frankfurt a/M, passed away on March 30, at the age of 84. Mourned by his relatives and friends.

**Merzbacher.**—Dr. Siegfried Merzbacher, of 69 Greencroft Gardens, London, N.W.6, passed away peacefully on April 3, in his 88th year at his daughter's home in Edinburgh. Deeply mourned by his children, grandchildren, sister, nieces and nephews.

**Schragenheim.**—Mrs. Bertha Schragenheim, of 207 Lordship Road, London, N.16 (formerly Frankfurt) passed away on April 9, in the 50th year of a happy companionship with her husband, Ernest Schragenheim.

**Stern.**—Dr. Werner Stern, of 90 Carlton Avenue East, Wembley, Middlesex, died peacefully on April 6, at the age of 64. Mourned by his wife, Evelyne, and daughter, Marion.

**Wolf.**—Mrs. Elsa Wolf (née Schachmann), of Morris Feinmann House, 178 Palatine Road, Manchester 20 (formerly Baden-Baden), passed away suddenly and peacefully on March 19. Deeply mourned by her sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

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#### MISSING PERSONS

**Personal Enquiries**  
**Fink.**—Leo and Vally Fink, from Prague (Weipert), please contact Erna Hahn, now Duesseldorf, Gartenstrasse 41.

#### AJR Enquiries

**Rosenthal.**—Klaus Rosenthal, born in Berlin, son of Ludwig and Frieda Rosenthal (née Nelhans). About 48 years of age.

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## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### OSNABRUECK SHOWS WORKS BY JEWISH ARTIST

In memory of the painter Felix Nussbaum, the City of Osnabrueck, where the artist was born in 1904, held an exhibition at which 93 paintings were shown. Nussbaum had studied at the academies of Hamburg and Berlin. In 1933, he fled to Belgium. After the occupation of the country by the Nazis he went into hiding, but he was caught in 1943 and deported to an unknown destination. Shortly before his arrest, he handed over more than 100 paintings to a friend.

The exhibition testified to Nussbaum's artistic qualifications. It was, however, also an act of moral restitution, and according to the address of one of the speakers of the Opening Ceremony, in keeping with Nussbaum's own desire, expressed in the words: "If I have to perish, don't let my paintings die."

### FRANKFURT COMMUNITY BOARD ELECTIONS

An official of the Frankfurt Jewish community has described as nonsensical reports current in London that one-third of the successful candidates in the recent communal elections were radicals. The newly elected "Gemeinderat" comprises 15 members, of whom five are students or have just finished their studies. All of them represented the most active, positive and constructive elements within the community and were certainly not following tendencies which could be described as radicalist.

Mr. L. Joseph, a representative of the old generation and a council member for 12 years, has been elected council chairman. The Frankfurt Jewish community has a membership of 4,757, of whom 3,991 (from 18 years upwards) were entitled to vote in the communal elections, but only 1,700 did so. Members over 21 are eligible and there were 26 candidates.

This is the first time in the post-war history of the German Jewish community that a strong group of young candidates of student age have participated in communal elections and have come out as winners.

### COMMUNAL CENTRE IN REGENSBURG

A new Communal Hall, which will also serve as a Prayer Room, was recently consecrated in Regensburg in the presence of representatives of the State, the Churches and the Jewish communities. The walls of the building depict the history of the Jewish community in Regensburg, which is as old as the city itself.

### AWARD FOR COURAGEOUS COUPLE

Mr. Hans and Mrs. Blanka Stecher (Bremerhaven) were awarded the Federal German Cross of Merit in recognition of their assistance to persecutees during the Second World War. The couple had hidden the manufacturer Peter Kompers and his Jewish wife in the cellar of their house in Cologne and thus saved them from being arrested.

### TOOK THE LAW INTO HER OWN HANDS

In 1968 Mrs. Beate Karsfeld, now aged 32, slapped the face of Dr. Kiesinger, the former West German Chancellor, for his wartime activities. She was recently arrested in Cologne on charges of "attempting to detain illegally" Dr. Kurt Lischka, a Second World War Nazi security officer in Paris, but released on bail 16 days later.

The German wife of a French Jew whose father died in Auschwitz concentration camp, Mrs. Karsfeld was reported to have admitted in Paris that she and her husband had attempted to kidnap Dr. Lischka on March 22.

She was arrested when, together with a former French resistance fighter and Auschwitz prisoner, they attempted to hand over documents to the Cologne public prosecutor alleging that three former Nazi officials were implicated in war crimes.

Mrs. Karsfeld told the public prosecutor, before her arrest in Cologne, that she and members of her group would continue to try to abduct some of about 300 former Nazi officials sentenced by French courts in their absence and living unmolested in West Germany since the war.

### SWASTIKAS ON PAULSKIRCHE

Swastikas were cut into all twelve glass doors of the Paulskirche in Frankfurt, where an exhibition "Antifascist Resistance 1933-1945" was shown. The doors will have to be replaced and the damage is considerable. The culprits have, so far, not been traced.

### LUDWIGSBURG AGENCY

Dr. Adalbert Rueckerl has announced that the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes, in Ludwigsburg, will be wound up in 1980.

The director of the agency said that the authorities responsible for the agency felt that any investigations begun after that date would have almost no chance of being successfully concluded. The chances of launching successful prosecutions were already decreasing steadily, added Dr. Rueckerl, because of the increasing age of suspects and witnesses. Also, many witnesses refused to give evidence and there were growing difficulties in unearthing evidence.

There would be no need for the West German Parliament to renew the operation of the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes, which was deferred to 1980 two years ago, said Dr. Rueckerl. Since the end of the war in 1945, about 85,000 West German citizens had been investigated in connection with Nazi crimes, and about 7,000 convicted and sentenced.

### REICH SECURITY OFFICER IMPRISONED

At a retrial in West Berlin, Fritz Woehrn, a former leading official of Adolf Eichmann's Jewish affairs section of the Reich Security Office, was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment. The prosecution had demanded a life sentence.

### JUDGE'S IMPARTIALITY QUESTIONED

The application of an East Berlin lawyer to inquire into the impartiality of a judge, has been rejected by West Germany's Supreme Court. The lawyer, Professor Friedrich Kaul, objected to Dr. Paul-Heinz Baldus, the presiding judge hearing the appeals of two former Nazi officials convicted of complicity in Hitler's mercy killing programme. Professor Kaul said Dr. Baldus held an office in the Nazi Justice Ministry between 1933 and 1937 and in Hitler's Chancellery between 1938 and 1939.

The court said that the protest was unjustified because the Ministry and Chancellery were not directly involved in the mercy killing programme, and that Dr. Baldus was serving in the German army when it was implemented.

### ACQUITTALS

A Frankfurt jury acquitted Dr. Hans Fleischhacker, an anthropologist, on charges of complicity in the wartime murder of 115 concentration camp prisoners, mostly Jews.

Also in Frankfurt, Adolf Strohhammer, a former member of Nazi special operations unit No. 8, was acquitted of complicity in the mass murder of Jews in Russia. The court said that the accused had been assigned to the unit against his will, carrying out his duties because he had no alternative, fearing for his own life.

After having been remanded in custody two years ago, Dr. Werner Best, a former SS group leader who was deputy chief of the Gestapo in Germany and Hitler's plenipotentiary in wartime Denmark, has been set free in West Berlin. He had been charged with complicity in the murder of several thousand members of the Polish intelligentsia at the end of 1939. The court said that the evidence available appeared to be insufficient. A conviction of complicity in manslaughter was possible, but this offence was no longer punishable since it came under the statute of limitation.

The trial in Berlin-Moabit of the former Deputy Head of the Berlin Gestapo Office, Dr. Kurt Venter, and his subordinate, Max Graustueck, ended with the acquittal of the defendants. The proceedings against the Head of Berlin Gestapo, SS-Standartenfuhrer Otto Bovensiepen, had already been suspended some time ago for reasons of ill-health. The defendants were accused of having been accessories to the murder of 20,000 Berlin Jews whose deportation was organised by the Gestapo. The announcement of the acquittals by the presiding judge, Amtsgerichtsdirektor Heinz Felge, aroused violent protests in the public gallery of the Law Court. The public prosecutor, Dr. Sczostak, and the representative of the victims, Dr. R. Kempner, have lodged an appeal against Venter's acquittal.

### DEATH SENTENCE IN EAST BERLIN

The East Berlin city court has sentenced to death a former member of the SS and Nazi security service, Hans Baumgartner. Formerly a member of an SS unit responsible for Nazi atrocities in Latvia, Baumgartner had admitted taking part in mass executions of Soviet citizens, mostly Jews, and in the deportation of thousands of men, women and children.

At least 75 East German citizens have been sentenced to death for Nazi crimes since the end of the war in 1945.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BRUENING MEMOIRS

Sir,—In his review of Heinrich Bruening's memoirs, published in the April issue of AJR Information, Hans Jaeger shows the numerous points of interest which this book offers for our circle of readers. May I add one more aspect which, in my opinion, is of great relevance to the problems of our time and gives this book an uncanny actuality.

In spite of important differences, which nobody will deny, there are clearly some parallel features in the Germany of the Bruening era and today. Bruening's efforts were dominated by his fight against inflation. He was convinced that as long as the German people were spending more than they earned the country would have no say in the councils of the nations. Moreover, he held, and clearly expressed, the view that democracy cannot survive in a society living on permanently progressing inflation. In great detail, not always easily understandable to the economic layman, he gives a report on his strategy which aimed at making the German people live within their means. Radical fanaticism and vested interests, however, threw the steering wheel into a different, disastrous direction, and the policy of saving was replaced by one of plunder.

A specially impressive passage in the book is the moving characterisation of Carl Melchior (pp. 486-487), the partner of M. M. Warburg & Co., who was one of Bruening's main associates in the negotiation for the reduction of reparation payments.

Yours, etc.,  
RAHEL LIEBESCHUETZ.

Dockenhuden,  
Mariners Road,  
Liverpool.

### AUSTRIAN COMPENSATION

Sir,—Will you allow me to comment on the letters published in your issues of October, 1970, and February, 1971, concerning the utterly different treatment of restitution claims for Austrian and German refugees.

When the Austrian Government was faced with restitution claims they denied any responsibility for the acts of the Nazis, and also claimed financial difficulties. The first argument was never correct; the Austrian population, workers as well as members of the middle and ruling classes were, if not 100 per cent, at least 98 per cent behind the Nazi régime. The second excuse might have been valid for the first few years after the end of the war, but our representatives for the Restitution

Agreement should have insisted on yearly revisions and improvement. This has been done in Germany and I cannot understand why Austria got away so easily. As far as I remember we were never told too many details, but I wonder if there is not still a chance of improvement for the few from Austria who are in need.

Yours, etc.,  
J. SINAI.

124 Heywood Road,  
Prestwich,  
Manchester, M25 5LE.

### SEDER CELEBRATIONS

Sedarim were held in all homes and in the AJR Club, and thanks are due to all those friends who kindly rendered their services on the occasion: Mr. O. Sender at Otto Schiff House, Professor D. N. Baron at Osmond House, Dr. E. Norton at Otto Hirsch House, Mr. Smith at Heinrich Stahl House, Mr. Baum at Leo Baeck House, and Dr. A. Horwell in the AJR Club at Hannah Karminski House.

### APPEAL FOR HELP

#### Cars for Outings

During the summer months, the House Committees of the Homes organise outings to some tea places in the Home Counties. These excursions are greatly enjoyed by those residents who are still able to take part in them. While usually coaches are hired for transport, the House Committee of Otto Schiff House feel that it would be preferable if, at least on some of these occasions, private cars could be made available. Any readers who would, in principle, be prepared to join in building up a pool of car owners whose help may be enlisted should kindly get in touch with: The Matron, Otto Schiff House, 14 Netherhall Gardens, London, N.W.3. (Tel.: 435 9050).

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

#### Mrs. Margaret Jacoby

The AJR and the AJR Club extend their sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, Chairman of the AJR Club, who will celebrate her birthday on May 22. At the risk that readers may suspect a printer's error it must be added that it is her 89th birthday. The vigour and grace which her personality radiates have endeared her to all members of the Club and to all other people who have the privilege of knowing her. She not only devotes her time and experience to the well-being of the Club but has also retained a wide range of other interests. We thank Mrs. Jacoby for all she has done for our community and wish her undiminished health for a long time to come.

### LEO BAECK DAY CENTRE

The Leo Baeck Day Centre for the Over-Sixties, until recently accommodated at Zion House, Eton Avenue, has acquired a house of its own at Daleham Gardens. The well laid out and beautifully equipped building offers opportunities for extending and intensifying the Centre's activities. The dining hall in the basement which has a wide window front, offers sufficient space for 80 to 90 persons. The ground floor comprises a large lounge which can be divided into three parts. The upper floor has been converted into three self-contained one-room flats.

The Day Centre was formally opened by the Mayor of Camden, Councillor H. Gould, on April 6. The Chairman of the Day Centre, Dr. Vally Wills, paid tribute to the Borough for its assistance to the scheme, and the Mayor stressed the need of care for the elderly members of the community. The other speakers at the function were Mr. Julian Tobin, Chairman of the Borough's Social Services Committee, Councillor Sir Samuel Fisher, and Miss Renate Stern, President of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck Women's Lodge. Mrs. I. Hutchinson spoke on behalf of the Over-Sixties.

The acquisition and conversion of the new Day Centre is mainly due to the efforts of the Leo Baeck Lodges, which are to be congratulated on this outstanding achievement. Financial assistance was also rendered by various other quarters, including the Borough of Camden, the National Corporation for the Care of Old People and the Central British Fund.

### HERMANN COHEN ARCHIVES

A few years ago, Dr. Helmuth Holzhey of the University of Zurich, started to build up Hermann Cohen archives. However, so far, it has not been possible to retrieve the material, left by Hermann Cohen himself. It is known, that the philosopher's widow, Martha, née Lewandowsky, was deported from her flat in the Bayrische Viertel to Theresienstadt on September 1, 1942, and that her companion, Bertha Sternson, had to follow her a few months later. Anybody who can give relevant information about the untraced material should get in touch with Dr. Holzhey.

### HEINE ARCHIVES AND NAZI AUTHORS

A resolution passed unanimously at the Annual General Meeting of the PEN Centre of German-speaking Writers abroad recorded with regret the fact that the Heine Archives in Duesseldorf had accepted the literary manuscripts of well-known propagandists of Nazism like Wilhelm Schaefer and Hanns Heinz Ewers in its collection of documents and literary manuscripts of "prominent personalities". The resolution describes this as an insult to the memory of Heinrich Heine and asks the Duesseldorf city authorities to take the necessary steps to remove these literary manuscripts from the Heine Archive.

F.H.

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