

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

SUCCESS AND GOODWILL

AJR Board Meeting

The wide range of activities and the organisational strength of the AJR became evident anew, when on January 27 members of the AJR Board had their annual meeting at Hannah Karminski House. More than 70 people, who are associated with the work of the AJR in one way or another, were present. They included committee members of the Homes and helpers in other spheres of our welfare work, as well as personalities who hold leading positions with other organisations built up by the former refugees. The description of the Board as the Parliament of the Jews from Germany and Austria in this country is therefore as apposite today as it has been throughout the years.

This year's Board Meeting coincided with an important change in the leadership of the AJR. Mr. Alfred S. Dresel, who had stood at the helm for many years, has tendered his resignation as chairman for reasons of age. He is succeeded by Mr. Werner M. Behr, O.B.E., the former vice-chairman, who presided over the Board Meeting. When opening the meeting, Mr. Behr paid tribute to Mr. Dresel for his inspiring and unflinching services, first as vice-chairman and since 1963 as chairman. The numerous achievements which are due to his guidance and perseverance include in the first place the establishment of the Homes, and his leading part in their administration. Mr. Behr especially referred to Mr. Dresel's decisive role in the creation of the Flatlet Home, Eleanor Rathbone House, which but for his energy and optimism would not have come into being. At the same time, Mr. Dresel has welded the executive committee into a team of devoted workers and directed their deliberations at their regular meetings. The feelings of regret at his resignation as chairman are slightly mitigated by his readiness to remain a member of the Executive, said Mr. Behr.

In his opening address, Mr. Behr also paid tribute to those associated with our work who had passed away since the last Board Meeting: Dr. Siegfried Moses (president of the Council of Jews from Germany and of the Leo Baeck Institute), Mr. Herbert Garfield at the early age of 54 (member of the AJR Executive), Mr. Berthold Bergmann (chairman of the AJR Glasgow Branch), and Miss Lydia Freund (a member of the AJR staff from 1942 until she retired in 1969). He then welcomed the newly elected Board Members who were present for the time: Mr. Max Kochmann, Dr. F. Levy and Mr. E. A. Sonnenberg.

In his report on the general activities of the AJR, Dr. W. Rosenstock (general secretary) stressed that, though the AJR was mainly now concerned with welfare work, it also had to keep an open mind for general developments in the Jewish field. In this respect AJR Information served an important

purpose by informing readers on current events. AJR Information, which now enters its 29th year of publication, is also used as source material, and several institutes in Germany and other countries have produced photostats of full sets for research purposes. Usually members receive their copies at the beginning of the month. Yet whenever there are delays for reasons beyond our control head office is inundated with enquiries. This shows how eagerly the monthly is awaited by the members.

Turning to the Homes, the speaker first dealt with some organisational questions. In administering the homes jointly with the C.B.F., the AJR is always mindful of the fact that the funds by which the homes are financed originate from Jewish assets in Germany. In the course of the years, an amicable co-operation between the C.B.F. and the AJR has developed. At the committee level the work is divided between the Management Committee and the House Committees. The Management Committee, which comprises members of both organisations, deals with questions of general policy, especially in the field of finances. The House Committees for the various homes, whose members stem from the ranks of the AJR, are of equal importance, especially by looking after the welfare of the residents in co-operation with the matrons. The AJR holds a mandate of its 4,000 members who expect that the honorary officers of the organisation take a responsible part in running homes established for people of our background. The speaker also paid tribute to the devoted services of the matrons and their staff.

The three types of accommodation which are now available (a flatlet house, four ordinary old age homes and Osmond House for the physically frail) are to be considered as an entity. This means that residents who are accepted for one particular kind of accommodation may have to be transferred to another kind of home if their health deteriorates. This does not involve any hardship for them, but, on the contrary, it is in their best interest to be accommodated in a kind of home which has the facilities required for their care.

The gross expenditure for the homes is not covered by the maintenance payments made by the residents, and the deficit is bound to be particularly high at Osmond House which provides round the clock nursing services. To some extent, the net expenditure depends on the maintenance contributions residents are able to pay, and, as always, admissions are solely decided on the degree of urgency and not on financial considerations. While endeavours are always made to economise on expenditure, there are limitations in this respect because savings must not be made at the ex-

pense of quality or quantity of food or adequate staffing.

As the sole owner of Hannah Karminski House the AJR is also responsible for running this communal centre which provides premises for the AJR Club and from which the Meals-on-Wheels Service is operated. Additional administrative work and responsibility arises from the fact that the house also provides accommodation for seven residents.

Turning to questions of restitution and compensation the speaker reported that at present the German Federal Republic considers the legislation as completed and does not envisage any amendments or extensions of the existing laws. In this connection it has also to be taken into account that, like other countries, West Germany goes through a period of economic recession. Furthermore we have to be mindful of the fact that, since the legislation was started during the first post-war years, a new generation has come to the fore which was either too young or not even born when the Nazis were in power, and which therefore, is not motivated by the feelings of guilt which influenced the attitude of their elders.

With regard to the German Democratic Republic, efforts at obtaining compensation of one kind or another had started when the admission of the GDR to the United Nations and their establishment of diplomatic relations with Western countries were imminent. However, so far these efforts are still in an initial stage. In assessing the chances it has to be taken into account that the countries of the Eastern Bloc have an entirely different approach to basic political concepts. Contrary to most other East European countries, the GDR does not discriminate against its Jewish citizens, and quite a few persons of Jewish origin hold leading positions in public life, though most of these are not members of their local Jewish communities. On the other hand, the GDR is more adamant in its anti-Israeli attitude than most other Eastern states.

The speaker also reported that the test case concerning the taxability of pensions to former civil servants and Jewish communal officials is still pending.

Turning to questions of organisation the speaker first paid tribute to the small staff of the office which coped with a great volume of work. It has, however, to be kept in mind that the duration for which the services of the AJR will be required will exceed the period for which some staff members, including the senior officials, will be available. Though no change is imminent at present, it will be necessary to look round in time in order to secure the continuity of the work.

While the final income and expenditure figures for the year 1973 are not yet available, it appears that the income from subscriptions, donations and payments to the AJR Charitable Trust under Deeds of Covenant has risen by about £2,000—as compared with 1972. The increase of expenditure has, how-

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SUCCESS AND GOODWILL

Continued from page 1

ever, definitely exceeded £2,000, especially due to the substantially increased costs for the production and postage of AJR Information. The minimum subscription fee of £3, fixed as far back as 1966, in the course of time has become quite unrealistic. The budget could only be balanced because this minimum fee is paid by only about one-third of the members, whereas another third pays about £5 and a further third subscriptions above £5 (some of them fairly substantial). The Executive had decided not to stipulate a general increase of the minimum subscription from £3 to £5, but instead to appeal to members for voluntary increases of their payments.

As far as the Membership is concerned, the losses in 1973 (mainly by death), which amounted to 150, could be made up by 167 new enrolments. Some of the new members were relatives of deceased members, others joined because they were interested in AJR Information or wished to support the widespread welfare activities of the AJR. Yet, whatever the motivation may be, the general trend shows that the recognition of the importance of the AJR's activities is not only not declining, but, on the contrary, increasing. This puts those in charge of the day-to-day work under an additional obligation to prove worthy of the trust put in them.

Mr. E. A. Lomnitz (deputy general-secretary, reported that the great demand for accommodation in Flatlets is reflected in the fact that about 100 applications for admission to Eleanor Rathbone House could not be attended to because there were no vacancies. He paid tribute to the members of the House Committee, Mrs. R. Anderman, Mrs. V. Mautner and Mrs. E. Trent. Whether any further flatlet scheme can be embarked upon is in the first place a question of finances.

Problems arise from the fact that, generally speaking, the average age of the residents of Eleanor Rathbone House was already comparatively high at the time of their admission. Some of them now can no longer look after themselves and therefore have, depending on their state of health, to be transferred to one of the ordinary Old Age Homes or to Osmond House.

The speaker also reported that the AJR Charitable Trust had inherited the house of the late Mrs. Marie Baneth (daughter of the late Berlin Rabbi Dr. S. Weisse) at West Heath Drive. This house does not lend itself for conversion into a flatlet home, but it serves a useful purpose by providing accommodation for five foreign students who are children of refugees.

Mrs. M. Casson reported that the number of vacancies which could be filled by the AJR Employment Agency has decreased in 1973. This applies both to office work and to home help. The reasons are that the type of clients with whom the department deals are getting older and that many of those still available do not wish to take up employment too far away from their place of residence. There is an increasing demand for domestic help, but insufficient people are available. Most householders pay for their home helps, but in some cases the department lends financial assistance.

It becomes increasingly difficult for the AJR Social Services Department to find accommodation, though there have been several successes in this field. The department also has a small fund at its disposal. It is mainly

used for subsidising home help and for paying out-of-pocket expenses to voluntary helpers.

The speaker stressed that the department would very much like to enlist the co-operation of further voluntary helpers. She also considered it highly desirable to intensify the co-operation with the Leo Baeck Lodge and the Belsize Square Synagogue, by pooling the resources in manpower.

Reporting on the Meals-on-Wheels Service Mrs. R. Anderman (member of the AJR Executive) stated that the number of meals served had been steadily increasing. The service started with 89 meals per month, whereas now 700 meals per month are served. Some of the recipients are regular clients, whereas others make use of the service in cases of emergency or convalescence. The charge per meal is 35p.

The speaker expressed special thanks to the voluntary helpers who assisted in preparing the meals and, above all, in delivering them to the recipients.

Mrs. M. Jacoby (chairman of the AJR Club) reported that the AJR Club had at present over 400 members with whom contacts are also kept when, for reasons of illness, they cannot attend the Club.

During the Israeli October War the Club raised £280 for the Joint Israel Appeal and £50 for the Jewish National Fund.

The Club also has at its disposal the Gertrud Schachne Fund and the Margaret Jacoby-Orger Fund which is mainly used for holiday payments.

The premises of the Club are open for informal gatherings five days a week, and there are also special functions at regular intervals. Last year for the first time an outing was organised in which 161 club members took part. The destination was Waddesdon Manor. For a number of club members this was the first occasion they had had of seeing a place outside London and it is intended to organise further outings this year.

Last year's Bring and Buy Sale yielded £500 which was used for various funds in this country and in Israel. This year's Bring and Buy Sale which is to mark the 18th birthday of the Club, has been scheduled for February 24.

Mrs. M. Pottlitzer, reporting on the Research on the History of Immigration, stated that she had continued to arrange for interviews in which former refugees recorded their experiences on tape. The collection of personal life stories was particularly important in view of the fact that the number of those who can speak from first hand experience is bound to decrease. Quite a few people have written down their own recollections and the speaker appealed to those

who have not already done so to co-operate in this respect whenever possible. Special questionnaires are available which are, however, not meant to be filled in, but only to serve as a guide for the kind of questions with which contributors should deal.

As the scheme is run on an international basis under the auspices of the Council of Jews from Germany, contacts are kept with the organisations and personalities in charge in the United States, Israel and France, and there were two occasions of an exchange of views with them during the past year. The fact that quite a few publications on special aspects of immigration have been published in the course of the past years indicates the increasing interest in the matter. Originally, it was intended to publish several books each of which should deal with one particular country of resettlement. It has, however, turned out that this plan was too ambitious and that, especially in view of the limited manpower available, its realisation would take a very considerable time. It has, therefore, been decided that, as a first step, one volume should be prepared in which all countries concerned are to be represented by one or several essays. As far as Great Britain is concerned it has already been arranged that one of the contributors will be Dr. J. Sherman whose recent book was reviewed in AJR Information. One of the focal points of the research is the problem of so-called acculturation, i.e., the assessment of the influence of the environment on the immigrants and vice-versa.

The reports, all of which were presented in a particularly concise way, were followed up by questions from the floor. All present were deeply impressed by the great volume of important activities carried out by the AJR, and the meeting thus reaffirmed the loyalty of a wide circle of honorary officers to our cause.

APPEALS FOR SOVIET JEWRY

An inter-denominational delegation of clergymen, together with two members of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, met the second secretary at the Soviet Embassy in London. Mr. Mikhail Sobolev promised to pass on to the appropriate Soviet authorities a request to review the ten-year goal sentence now being served in Russia by Miss Silva Zalmanson, as well as those of other Jewish prisoners of conscience. He refused to receive a petition signed by about 1,000 people on behalf of the Jewish prisoners of conscience, collected during a ten-day Soviet Jewry exhibition held in Croydon.

A Soviet Jewry seminar organised by the Board of Deputies in London was attended by over 180 communal leaders, including guests from France and Holland. The meeting dealt with the techniques of activities, information and telephone contacts with Soviet Jews, problems of organisation and co-ordination of activities and relations with non-Jewish personalities and institutions.

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HOME NEWS

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

March 11-14

The functions at this year's Jewish Book Week at Hillel House, 1-2 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1, include a lecture under the auspices of the AJR and several other organisations on Tuesday, March 12, about "Jewish History in Modern Writing," with Dr. Abraham Wasserstein (Professor at the Hebrew University) and Dr. Aubrey Newman (Reader in History at the University of Leicester) as the speakers and His Honour Judge Finestein, Q.C., in the chair.

The programme also includes a symposium on The Future Role of Jewish Writing, introduced by the Hon. Mrs. Michael Sieff and featuring John Gross (Literary Critic), Barnett Litvinoff (Biographer) and Berenice Rubens (Novelist) on Monday, March 11.

On Wednesday, March 13, Martin Gilbert, Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, and official biographer of Sir Winston Churchill, will lecture on "Churchill, the Jews and Zionism".

The last evening function, to be held on Thursday, March 14, will be a talk on The Purim Spiel by Dr. Chone Shmerulk, Professor of Yiddish at the Hebrew University.

All lectures commence at 8 p.m.

There will also be afternoon lectures at 2.30 for school children on March 12 (lower school), 13 (sixth formers) and 14 (middle school).

ANTI-ISRAEL BOOKLET

An anti-Israel booklet, produced by the "Children of God", has been sold to members of the public on the streets of London and at stations. London Transport has asked to be notified of any attempts to sell this booklet, entitled misleadingly "Israel Invaded". The "pro-Israeli Jews of the West" are among those who are strongly attacked in the booklet for the present situation in the Middle East. David Berg, a 53-year-old American said to be a Jew, is the leader of the "Children of God", who have branches in several parts of the world, including Britain.

EGYPTIAN ENVOY APPOINTMENT

The proposed appointment of Major-General Saad Shazli as Egyptian Ambassador to Britain has met with many protests. As Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Army during the Yom Kippur War, from which post he was recently removed, Shazli ordered troops to murder Israeli prisoners-of-war. But the main objections against him are the links he had with British Nazis in the early 1960s when he was military attaché to the Egyptian Embassy in London. The Guardian newspaper reprinted the text of letters sent by John Tyndall, then deputy leader of the British National Socialist Movement, to the then Colonel Shazli offering co-operation between the movement and the Arabs "against our common enemies, the Jews..."

The Board of Deputies has pointed out that the acceptance of Shazli as Ambassador would be offensive to many people, and could lead to a worsening of community relations in Britain because of his earlier association with former British Nazis. The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women expressed strong objections, and representations have also been made to the Foreign Office by Lord Janner, chairman of the Board of Deputies' Erets Israel Committee.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO

DR. F. H. KROCH

The AJR has asked me to write to you on the occasion of your 70th birthday on March 29. I consider it a privilege to have been appointed this task.

First of all, let me congratulate you on joining the Septuagenarian Club, and wish you good health surrounded by your family. Also, further success in all your activities, which are manifold. Yet, I am afraid that I may still overlook some.

To start with, there is Lankro Chemicals, a combine which you have built up to an importance of world-wide ramifications—its apparent manifestation is their quotation on the Stock Exchange. The way you care for the well-being of your employees is well known, and so is their devotion to you.

The Morris Feinmann Homes in Manchester, created by your untiring labour are a further proof of your attitude towards human and social obligations. The community has been aware of your work for many years; this is documented by the University of Manchester, created by your untiring labour, degree, Master of Science, and even more so by Her Majesty the Queen bestowing upon you the C.B.E.

I for one, can only say that you achieved what you set out to do, and I am sure that your family, together with all your friends, wish you to continue in your wonderful work, but with a little less vigour, to enable all of us to admire you and your achievements for many years to come.

Very sincerely yours,

W. M. BEHR

BISHOP REBUKES GOVERNMENT

In a recent diocesan letter, the Bishop of Llandaff, the Rt. Rev. E. Stephen Thomas, rebukes the Government for its anti-Israel policy. The Bishop writes that, despite the Government's claims of neutrality, its policy—"galling to many"—has been effectively anti-Israel. It ought long ago to have been learnt that appeasement gets us nowhere. It was a case of "oilsheesh" rather than "baksheesh".

On the subject of antisemitism, the bishop stated that it is clear that antisemitism still runs very deep and this is one of the prime reasons for the anti-Israel phobia that so many in the pro-Arab camp demonstrate. A person sympathetic to Israel was not automatically anti-Arab, but it was a very different story the other way round.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Below Average Birthrate

According to a survey conducted by the Board of Deputies' statistical and demographic research unit published in the Jewish Journal of Sociology, the Jewish birth rate in Britain—with the exception of the small ultra-Orthodox section—is much lower than that for the general population. British families have on average 2.16 children while the average for Jewish families is 1.72. In ultra-Orthodox families, the average number of children is 2.69 and it is expected that there will be an even higher number of births in that section within the next few years, with the recent rapid increase in marriages in the ultra-Orthodox community.

Women's Rights

The many inquiries received from communities in this country and abroad have caused the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, to issue a statement on women's role in synagogal affairs, declaring that the time has come to harness the talents and specialised skills of Anglo-Jewry's women for the advancement of our congregational concerns. Dr. Jakobovits, however, points out the halachic ruling on women's participation. Women may elect to office but may not themselves be elected. Yet they may be appointed or nominated to synagogue boards and councils by women of the congregation or local women's organisations, and they may exercise full membership rights.

Warning by Board of Deputies

Sir Samuel Fisher, president of the Board of Deputies, stressing that the finances of the board are at a very low ebb, appealed to the community to support the board in its work of representing and defending Anglo-Jewry.

The present economic state of the country and the present "national state of turmoil" could create a situation which could reflect dangerously on minorities. Sir Samuel also warned that the Government's pro-Arab policy could create a situation which could lead to a strengthening of fascist activities here.

Decrease in Aliya

British emigration to Israel last year was 708 as compared to 976 in 1972. There was a constant decline throughout the year, in striking contrast to the trend in the previous year.

The decline in British aliya does not correspond to similar trends in the rest of the Western world, where the figure remained the same as in 1972—about 15,000—although in 1971 it had been 18,648. The total number of immigrants reaching Israel last year was 55,000, of which 40,000 came from the Soviet Union.

Grant to Chilean Students

The B'nai B'rith has made a grant to the seven Chilean graduates and students awaiting a High Court action to decide on their right to political asylum in Britain. Following a request from the students, six of whom are Jewish, the Leo Baeck Lodge agreed to give them £100 from its welfare fund. In addition, they will be entitled to free kosher meals at Hillel House.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Standards for Minority Groups

Arising out of a growing practice of admitting Negroes and Puerto Ricans to undergraduate and graduate courses on the basis only of their colour or ethnic background, the American Jewish Committee has submitted a plea to the United States Supreme Court. They request that members of minority groups should be required to meet the academic standards demanded of all others for entry to university.

Kirov Ballet Cancellation

One of the reasons for the abrupt cancellation by Leningrad's Kirov Ballet of its controversial tour of America planned for the summer, is the "Panov situation". The Soviet authorities have given permission for the ex-Kirov dancer, Valery Panov, to leave but his non-Jewish wife must remain behind. He has refused to go without her.

The sponsors of the tour made it clear to the Russians that feelings about the Panovs were running high in the USA.

Another reason given for the cancellation which would have been the first tour in ten years, was the energy crisis.

Appointment of Munich-born Rabbi

As successor of Rabbi M. Eisendrath who died recently, Rabbi Alexander Schindler was elected president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the central federation of American Reform Congregations. Rabbi Schindler was born in Munich 47 years ago and, together with his parents, went to the United States at the age of 13.

Golders Green Chazan

Twenty-two-year-old Rev. Meir Finkelstein, reader of the Golders Green Synagogue for the past three years, has left to become cantor of the Beth Hillel Conservative congregation in Chicago. Before his departure he married Leba Nemeth, daughter of Rabbi Morris Nemeth, minister of the New West End Synagogue, Bayswater.

GREEK PRIMATE'S RESIGNATION

Greek Jewish leaders have greeted with satisfaction the resignation of the Primate of Greece, Archbishop Ieronymos, also generally welcomed by many Greek Christians. The ex-Primate permitted the preaching of anti-Jewish sermons and overlooked antisemitic allegations in church publications.

There is a centuries-old tradition of friendship and respect between the Greek Orthodox Church and Greek Jewry. During the Nazi occupation of Greece in the Second World War a number of Greek Orthodox clergy helped Jews. Archbishop Damaskinos, Primate of Greece in 1943, was threatened with the firing squad when he made a strong protest to the German Commander in Greece against the Nazi deportation of Greek Jewry.

CANADIAN CHIEF JUSTICE

Justice Bora Laskin, recently appointed Chief Justice of Canada, is the son of immigrants from Russia. He was the first Jew to be appointed a member of the Canadian Supreme Court in 1970.

CHILEAN JEWRY

In a recent issue of the Jewish Chronicle, Stanley Clinton Davis, M.P., comments on the policies of the new regime in Chile and their effect on the Jewish community there. Before the election of Salvadore Allende as President in 1970, there were some 35,000 Jews in Chile. Most were businessmen or professionals, and among the President's supporters were a number of leading Jewish politicians. Several thousand Jews, fearing the economic measures of a new Government, fled the country.

When Mr. Davis visited the country in March 1972, it was already obvious to him that Chilean industrialists, aided and abetted by multi-national companies and Western Governments, were bent on sabotaging the very considerable economic changes which the Allende Government was seeking to implement. Eventually, starved of the international help, the economy fell into a steep state of decline. The military seized this opportunity to assume power.

As far as the Jewish community is concerned it is inevitable that conflicting reports appear. The Chief Rabbi of Chile announced that there is no official outburst of anti-semitism. On the other hand, there is the evidence of the seven Chilean graduates seeking political asylum in this country who say, unequivocally, that antisemitism has reared its ugly head, writes Mr. Davis.

VIRGIN ISLANDS' SYNAGOGUE

After 140 years of service to the Jews of the Virgin Islands, the synagogue on Synagogue Hill in the town of St. Thomas has been restored. The synagogue was designed by a Parisian architect and erected at a cost of about \$5,000. Money for the cost of the current restoration estimated at \$25,000 (about £10,500), was contributed by St. Thomas residents and tourists.

ITALY

Pope Pius XII

A niece of the late Pope Pius XII, the controversial wartime Pope, has brought a suit against those responsible for the film *Reprisal* and against Mr. Robert Katz, the author of *Death in Rome*. The film and book are an historical account of the Ardeantine Caves massacre of 335 Romans, including many Jews, by the Nazis in March, 1944. The Pope's niece alleges that Pius XII is slandered by the statement that he knew beforehand that the Nazis had planned the massacre but did not act to prevent it.

Concessions to Arabs

In a statement to the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Aldo Moro, the Foreign Minister, has for the first time defined Italy's attitude to the Israeli-Arab conflict. Israel, he said, should withdraw from all territory occupied during the 1967 Six-Day War as the price for a peace settlement.

It has been pointed out that the statement was issued just before Mr. Moro's departure for official visits to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran to negotiate oil agreements.

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BELGIAN COMMUNISTS ON ISRAEL

A statement specifying that Israel must maintain her distance from the United States and envisage a *rapprochement* with the Soviet Union, has been drafted by Belgian Communists "of Jewish origin". The Middle East conflict would not be resolved "so long as the State of Israel and the national rights of the Palestinian people are not recognised simultaneously".

The document made it clear that Belgian Jewish Communists were not attacking "Zionists" or "Zionist structures" and there was no reference to any "liberation struggle" by the Palestinians.

Some observers feel that this moderately worded statement may have been inspired by the Soviet Union, and that it may be related to recent reported feelers towards the possibility of a resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel (the Soviet Union broke diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War).

JEWRY IN THE EAST

EMIGRATION FIGURES

Informed sources in Moscow state that the total number of Jews allowed to emigrate to Israel in 1973 was 35,000—a record number. In 1972, 33,000 were allowed to leave, and since 1971 almost 80,000 Jews have left the Soviet Union, the sources said.

In Paris, the Parliamentary Assembly of the 17-nation Council of Europe adopted a resolution asking Moscow for assurances that Jews seeking exit permits would not be discriminated against.

"DOCTORS PLOT"

New Revelations

In Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn's new book, "The Gulag Archipelago, 1918-1956" just published in Paris, the author states that only Josef Stalin's death saved the Jews of Moscow from a massive pogrom which he had been preparing in his last days.

The planned pogrom was centred on the "Doctors' Plot" in which Stalin charged that Kremlin physicians, mostly Jews, were plotting to kill high officials. According to the author, it was to be followed by the exile of the remaining Moscow Jews to Siberia.

Solzhenitsyn asserts that Stalin planned to stage a mass execution of Jews by hanging in Red Square, something unknown in Russia since Ivan the Terrible. According to this new version of the "Doctors' Plot", the masses in the Square were to have been whipped up into a frenzy of antisemitism, killing Jews wherever they could be found.

ROMANIA PERMITS EMIGRATION

A delegation of Jewish leaders who met President Ceausescu during his recent visit to New York, were told that Romania would continue to allow Jews to emigrate. The Romanian President said, however, that he hoped the 50,000 to 60,000 members of the Romanian community would stay. The presence in Israel of some 400,000 Romanian Jews testified that people in his country were free to emigrate, said President Ceausescu. He emphasised Romania's friendship for Israel, pointing out that Israel could not continue to live in isolation among 100 million Arabs.

The meeting was described as "cordial and frank", and the Jewish leaders praised Romania's treatment of her Jews.

IN MEMORY OF SIEGFRIED MOSES

Jews from Germany all over the world mourn the death of Dr. Siegfried Moses. His achievements were outstanding both in the professional and in the Jewish field.

Dr. Moses was physically and mentally alert up to the very end. We had every reason to expect that he would be spared for quite a few more years. It is, therefore, particularly tragic that his death was caused by an accident. Together with his wife, he stayed at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv when a fire broke out, a report of which is carried in this issue. The smoke-filled building had to be evacuated in the middle of the night, and Dr. Moses, who was affected by the strain, had to be transferred to a hospital where he died a few days later.

Among the numerous causes to which he served during a long and full life, the work for the Council of Jews from Germany and for the Leo Baeck Institute was particularly near to his heart. Both organisations have now lost their president, and their sense of loss is reflected in the following tributes published in his memory.

Walter Breslauer

SPOKESMAN OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

Dr Siegfried Moses reached the age of nearly 87 years. His death on January 14 was a great shock to his innumerable friends and admirers all over the world and especially to those who are connected with the work of the Council of Jews from Germany. The creation of the Council was primarily due to his initiative.

After his emigration to Palestine, Dr Moses very soon became the president of the Hitachdut Olej Germania, later renamed Irgun Olej Merkaz Europa, the organisation of Jews from Central Europe. When, in 1944, the Second World War was drawing to its close he was one of the first to raise the question of restitution in a pamphlet published under the heading "The Jewish Post-War Claims". One year later, when he paid a visit to New York, he suggested that his organisation in Israel and the organisations of Jews from Germany in the United States, Great Britain and France should combine and form the Council of Jews from Germany. (Later organisations in South America and Belgium were added.)

At first Dr. Moses had in mind that the organisation should have its seat in New York. Yet when some months later Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, the former president of the Reichsvertretung, after his liberation from Theresienstadt settled in London, it was decided that the headquarters of the Council should be in London. The constituent organisations abroad were to be represented by London residents. This was altered in 1950 when, again at Dr. Moses's suggestion, each of the three constituent organisations (Israel, Great Britain and the United States) formed a presidium for themselves under the chairmanship of one vice-president. At that time the present author, working in London, was already a vice-president of the Council (meanwhile succeeded by Mr. W. M. Behr), and the vice-presidents appointed for the two other countries were Dr. Moses for Israel and, a little later, Rabbi Dr. Gruenewald for the United States.

After the death on November 2, 1956, of Dr. Baeck, the choice of a new president became necessary. The author, who was probably the first to brush aside another, unsuitable, suggestion, felt that the only personality qualified to follow Dr. Baeck was Dr. Moses. This was unanimously agreed as a matter of course, and nobody has ever doubted that we made the right choice.

At that time, Dr. Moses was State Comptroller of Israel with the rank of Minister. He was the first holder of this office and his appointment was all the more remarkable as he was a Jew from Germany, a "Jecke", whereas the "establishment" mainly comprised Jews of Russian or Polish origin. His capabilities were so widely acknowledged

that his appointment was twice renewed and held by him for 12 years until he himself decided that a younger man should take his place.

Siegfried Moses was an outstanding personality. The qualities of his character were as eminent as his abilities. His word was his bond and always followed by prompt action. He combined absolute decisiveness in his aims and their attainment with an amicability which always kept clear of personal friction. This was most beneficial for the work of an international organisation like the Council, and, perhaps, unique in Jewish life.

What made his work particularly invaluable was the fact that he had the special qualities required by a chairman: He was able to delegate and, at the same time, kept a firm hold on the running of the organisation. I believe that no member organisation or individual working within the Council ever acted without having first ascertained his approval. When controversial questions arose they were first discussed with him. When immediate action was necessary it was always carried out in keeping with his intentions. His abilities as the chairman of meetings were quite astonishing. He was not a chairman of many words. He was capable of directing the proceedings for any length of time. Once he remarked that his colleagues in England had the strange idea that a meeting starting at 10.00 a.m. should end not later than 7.00 p.m.

(principally meaning myself). He managed to have the business finished at five minutes to seven without having rushed through any of the items to be decided upon. He did not allow participants to go on unduly, and, if necessary, would cut short verbose speakers.

Of the many occasions on which his decisive influence as president of the Council became evident three examples may be mentioned.

In the early '50s the question arose whether the Jews from Germany should receive at least a modest share in the unclaimed, heirless and former communal Jewish assets in Western Germany recovered by the so-called successor organisations. An agreement to that effect was achieved without difficulties with the successor organisation for the British zone, the Jewish Trust Corporation, in 1953. However, the successor organisation for the American zone, the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO), first refused any kind of settlement. In consequence Dr. Baeck decided to declare the resignation of the Council from membership of JRSO by letter of March 12, 1954. This had the effect that the leaders of JRSO agreed to come to an arrangement with the Council which, after all, was the representative body of the Jews from Germany. A meeting was held in Paris in December 1954 at which the Council was represented by Dr. Moses as well as by three representatives of the British constituent and two of the American constituent. The principal spokesman for the Council was Dr. Moses. The discussion lasted from 6.00 p.m. until 3.30 a.m., and if it resulted in the settlement we had aimed at it was mainly due to the way in which Dr. Moses expounded our point of view and to his absolute refusal to budge until a satisfactory agreement would have been achieved. At the same time this occasion showed how important it was that Dr. Moses had the general respect of all Jewish organisations and that he was also on very good personal terms with Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the chairman of JRSO and of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Another difficulty arose in 1962. At that time the German authorities had to decide whether property taken by the former Reich from German Jews should be restituted to their original owners in full. The Federal Restitution Law (BRueG) in its original version only provided for limited amounts of payments, and this was quite out of proportion to the financial potentialities the Federal Republic of Germany had acquired meanwhile. However, the Claims Conference too had asked for certain amendments which concerned the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG), and Dr. Goldmann had hinted that to achieve a settlement of these indemnification claims the Claims Conference would agree to a limitation of the restitution payments to

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Robert Weltsch

GUARDIAN OF OUR HERITAGE

For those who were close to Siegfried Moses in friendship and work during several decades it is difficult indeed to realise that he has disappeared from the scene and to give an adequate picture of his personality and his role in Jewish life. Nor is it easy, at this hour of sorrow, to imagine how the work of our post-war German-Jewish institutions is to go on without him.

Those who at a crucial time felt committed to salvage whatever may be possible of the German-Jewish heritage, especially the active members of the Leo Baeck Institute, are a tightly knit circle, comparatively small, spread over three continents, upholders of a waning tradition. Their work is determined by the impact of a common past and of common habits, and old differences and controversies, now mostly obsolete, have more or less vanished. We need not stress the revolutionary impact which the Hitler era had on German Jewry in all spheres of life. It affected not only the destinies of the individuals but also the ways of thought in general Jewish issues. It is certainly not too much to say that the last period of German Jewry, first in Germany proper from 1933 onwards and later in all the parts of the new dispersion, forms in itself a particular chapter of history, with fundamentally new aspects, with awful experiences, with struggles for the very existence, but also with the will to stand together and find a constructive answer to the challenge of changing situations. In this last chapter and its aftermath Siegfried Moses became—almost unexpectedly—one of the central personalities above old days' parties. Now we have the feeling that his death marks the end of an epoch.

In a—necessarily brief—retrospective appreciation no-one can do more than speak of his own experience in this drama. Leaving aside all purely personal matters, my own co-operation with Moses mainly took place in two different periods. During the twenties, when Moses was one of the members of the Actions Committee of the Zionist Federation for Germany, I was the editor of the Federation's newspaper "Jüdische Rundschau." However, there was no special business relationship between us at that time, and on the whole Moses's organisational and ideological interests were rooted mainly in the KJV to which I did not belong. Whoever did not come from this well defined camp was not a priori among his associates.

This changed when in 1933, after Kurt Blumenfeld's departure for Palestine, Moses became president of the Zionist Federation. It was one of the most critical times, when every step and every pronouncement had to be thoroughly scrutinised in order to prevent a clash with the hostile authorities. In some respects, his accession to the leadership of the Zionist Federation was a novum. Temperamentally, Moses was not a political activist and a propagandist orator. Nor was he part of the establishment of Zionist officialdom; he was an independent lawyer and had been in commercial life as business adviser of the Schocken concern. His place was in the council chamber, not in mass meetings. Now he had become my boss, and we had to be in almost daily consultation. I learned to admire his wisdom and clear judgement in questions which were often rather involved and close to the danger zone. It was always of great benefit to work with him, even to argue with him, also where there were differences of opinion, as it sometimes happened.

The second period of my collaboration with Moses came about when, after the war, the Leo Baeck Institute was established by the Council of Jews from Germany whose president Dr. Moses had become in 1956 after the death of Leo Baeck. At that time this Council was mainly occupied with questions of restitution from Germany, a problem which Moses had studied and commented upon even before the end of the war and in the settlement of which he later actively co-operated. But it was also clear to the leadership of the remnants of German Jewry that it had to be one of their main tasks to explain and to present the collective and individual achievements of German Jews, both in the purely Jewish area and in the field of general culture, to their own coming generations and to those Jews and non-Jews who knew nothing of German Jewish history and its immense impact on the whole of Jewry. This had, at least partly, to be done in English which had replaced German as the *lingua franca* of world Jewry.

To take charge of this task the Leo Baeck Institute was established under the presidency of Dr. Moses, and at the first stage I was selected to edit a Year Book to be published in London. In this capacity I was again linked with Dr. Moses. Within the Institute there emerged a community of the more active members of the Board in all three centres (Jerusalem, London, New York). At the yearly general conventions and committee meetings we all had an opportunity of admiring Moses's skill in conducting meetings and steering discussions, his extraordinary ability to master difficult situations and finding compromises in controversial matters. Moses was an indefatigable chairman up to his old age, aided by his objectivity, his tolerance, his understanding of the essential and, not least, thanks to his patience and stamina.

In the last years the Leo Baeck Institute had become his favourite child to which he devoted much of his thought and his time. A highlight of his career was his presiding over a conference of scholars connected with a many-sided symposium in Jerusalem in 1970, which attracted much public attention. Somehow, Moses had become identified with the Leo Baeck Institute. His authority kept it together and helped to overcome "separatist" tendencies whenever such seemed to appear. His modesty and his integrity no less than his personal charm contributed much to his influence in public life. In old age he maintained his vigour and his energy until the last moment, and it is tragic that we lost him because he had to succumb to the strain resulting from an unfortunate mishap.

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SPOKESMAN OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

Continued from page 5

three-quarters of their total value. The Federal German Minister of Finance was Dr. Starke, a member of the FDP (he has now transferred his allegiance to the CDU). It was obviously difficult for him to be faced with two conflicting claims put before him by Jewish organisations. He was eager to make some savings for Germany's finances. Here Dr. Moses's connections with Dr. Goldmann proved to be decisive. Though usually questions of restitution were dealt with by the British executive of the Council, we felt that we were not strong enough to prevent this imminent infringement of our rights. By chance, in May 1962, a Jewish meeting was held in Copenhagen in which Dr. Moses and Dr. Goldmann took part. Two of our friends went to Copenhagen, discussed the matter with Dr. Moses who in turn convinced Dr. Goldmann that the Federal Republic was able to fulfill both sets of claims. Dr. Goldmann agreed to inform Dr. Starke that the Claims Conference did not wish to raise any objections against the claims of the Council. Later, when Dr. Starke was succeeded by Dr. Dahlgrün, our claims were fulfilled without difficulties. I doubt whether we would have accomplished this if Dr. Moses had not succeeded in obviating the difficulties threatening from Jewish quarters.

A third problem which must be recalled on this occasion arose when some members of the Council suggested that the Council should also concern itself with the politics of the Federal Republic in questions other than restitution and compensation. Under the decisive influence of Dr. Moses the Israeli section objected to this proposal and so did the British section. Both constituents felt that it was not the function of the Council to assume a role which might be tantamount to that of a *Praeceptor Germanide*.

During the last 19 years Dr. Moses was also president of the Leo Baeck Institute, an off-shoot of the Council. In the course of time, the LBI has constantly expanded its activities, and as now the period of indemnification is nearing its end, its lasting impact will probably be greater than that of the Council itself.

I should like to end this article with two personal reminiscences.

From 1931 to 1936 Dr. Moses was *inter alia* Repräsentant of the Jewish community of Berlin, while I myself was its principal official (Verwaltungsdirektor). In connection with this work our relationship was only slight. There was, however, one occasion when the Board of the Community asked Dr. Moses, in his capacity as an industrial consultant, to give an expert opinion. The way in which he accomplished this task revealed to me for the first time the high degree of his professional ability and his absolute sense of justice and fairness.

Later during the years from 1956 onwards we regularly corresponded and met whenever the opportunity arose. Our contacts mainly concerned questions of restitution and compensation of which the London Executive of the Council was in charge. Last year, in a letter to Dr. Moses, I had the occasion to express to him my gratitude for the fact that in the course of 60 years of Jewish public life there had, with the exception of one late friend, never been anybody with whom I co-operated in such perfect harmony as with him. This was, I pointed out, all the more remarkable because, whilst this late friend had shared my basic Jewish ideas, Dr. Moses had originated from a different ideological background. I shall always gratefully cherish the memory of his amiable and outstanding personality.

Egon Larsen

GABRIELE TERGIT 80

In the part of an octogenarian, Gabriele Tergit is completely miscast, as they would say in the theatre. Apart from one or two physical weaknesses there is nothing of the conventional four-score-year-old about her. Behind those shortsighted eyes there is a brain as sharp, an imagination as fertile as that of the girl who edged her way into Berlin's "Fleet Street"; there is the urge to help friends and support causes; there is an ever-fresh wonderment at what goes on in the world—the splendid *naïveté* of a teenager. And there is a great sense of humour, well preserved through all the vicissitudes and tragedies of a long life. The prescription for keeping young seems simple: one must take, like Gabriele Tergit, a passionate interest in other people, in the world around us.

With that gift, she had the essential prerequisite of the writer. Born in Berlin on March 4, 1894, as the daughter of a Jewish industrialist, she took advantage of the new attitude towards women at the universities and studied history under Friedrich Meinecke and Erich Marcks, graduating with a thesis on Karl Vogt, the scientist and member of the 1848 Frankfurt Parliament. Her training in historical research proved to be of great value for her later literary work, but her first steps as a writer took her into the field of topical journalism, and particularly law-court reporting—until then the domain of humourless elderly gentlemen. Like her colleague "Sling", she looked at the human side of the law, at the people who were entangled in it; and she wrote down what she saw, not in legal jargon but in the everyday language of her readers, the Berliners. With her first contributions to the *Berliner Börsen-Kurier* there began a revolution in court reporting which made it a literary craft in its own right.

In 1925, Theodor Wolff took her on the editorial staff of the *Berliner Tageblatt*. She joined a team of journalists as brilliant as Germany had never had it before, or is ever likely to have again—among them Alfred Kerr, Rudolf Olden, Viktor Auburtin, Arnold Höllriegel, Alfred Einstein, Fritz Engel and Walter Kiaulehn. To make a name for oneself in the company of such writers was not easy, but Gabriele Tergit did it within a short while. In the Berlin of the 1920s and early 1930s, she was famous, the favourite court reporter and *feuilleton* writer of many thousands of readers.

Perhaps somewhat prematurely she embarked on her first book, a satirical *roman-à-clef*. Its subject: the silly, pseudo-American, corrupted cultural whirl of Berlin W. The book, *Käsebiere erobert den Kurfürstendamm*, took as its cue the phenomenal success of a natural Berlin comic from the working-class East End, Erich Carow; the with-it snobs around the Kurfürstendamm started a mass pilgrimage to the obscure music-hall where he appeared, prompted by an enthusiastic newspaper article by Heinrich Mann. It was just the right target for Gabriele Tergit's satirical arrows, and the book was a great success. Today one realises almost with a

shudder that this debunking attack on Berlin's hollow *Betrieb* appeared little more than a year before Hitler took over.

In 1928, Gabriele Tergit had married a well-known architect, H. J. Reifenberg. It was a partnership that lasted until his death forty years later, and which determined much of her career. His encouragement gave her the confidence to start, as early as 1931, on her *magnum opus*, the novel *Effingers*. Many critics called it the "Jewish *Buddenbrooks*" when it was eventually published 20 years later in Germany (another ten years later it was serialised in the German-language daily in Tel Aviv, *Yedioth Chadashoth*). It is a German family saga, told against the vast background canvas of history from the days of Bismarck to the night of Hitler. Sebastian Haffner wrote about it:—

"It has a great theme: the rise and fall of German Jewry, which is so curiously intertwined with the rise and fall of Germany itself. It has a fully mature, highly individual and highly entertaining narrative technique: it splits up its great bulk into innumerable episodes. . . . The dangers of self-pity and propaganda are entirely avoided. The Hitler nightmare is treated in a very fast, sketchy manner, which leaves it its whole uncanniness without ever dwelling on horrors. Nor does the author ever pretend that victims are necessarily angels. . . . The book has an extraordinary, almost photographic period truthfulness".

Effingers was, of course, not completed before history itself contributed its final chapter. It was written, says the author, "in 30 furnished rooms in Spindlermühle, Prague and Karlsbad, in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and London", that is, wherever her exile took her.

After an attempt of the SA Storm 33 to break into her Berlin flat—wisely, Rei-

fenberg had secured it with an armoured door—Gabriele Tergit fled over the Czechoslovak border. At once, the German-language newspapers in Prague, which had been reprinting her Berlin *feuilletons* for years, asked her to write for them. Meanwhile, Reifenberg had gone to Palestine to build a house for his brother, Adolf, of the Jerusalem University, and eventually Gabriele Tergit, with their small son, joined him there.

In those pre-war years there was some—understandable—resentment against certain types of immigrants from Germany. But when a Revisionist said at a public meeting, "Da sitzen sie so pöbelhaft und gemein wie in den Berliner Cafés" Gabriele Tergit, all five foot of her, stormed on the platform and (in her own words) *knallte ihm eine*. It was just before the local elections in Tel Aviv, and this feat made her suddenly popular with the Labour Party. *Dawar* wrote "A German woman defended the honour of the German Jews".

Illness struck the family: Reifenberg contracted polio, the son typhoid, Gabriele Tergit charara. They left their lovely home for a summer in Europe—the summer of 1938. One Hitler crisis followed the other, and it was imperative for the Reifenbergs to get their relatives out of Germany. They stayed on in London.

After the war she wrote for the *Berliner Tagesspiegel*, for the *Neue Zeitung*, for Alfred Döblin's *Goldenes Tor*. She returned to book writing, with marked success because she now specialised in a field where she excelled—cultural history. First came *Das Büchlein vom Bett*, then *Kaiserkrone und Pönnien Rot* and *Das Tulpenbüchlein* both cultural histories of flowers, splendidly researched and full of curious unknown facts. These books appeared in English, German, Italian, Bulgarian and Hungarian. But a new long novel on German-Jewish emigration was rejected by her German publisher, who wrote: "One cannot force the German public to read what they don't want to read about".

Since 1957, Gabriele Tergit has been secretary of the P.E.N. Centre of German-speaking Writers Abroad, the true successor of the pre-Hitler German P.E.N. Centre, founded after the burning of the books, the arrests and murders of writers, the massive emigration of non-Nazi authors from Hitler Germany. Due to her devoted work, the "new" Centre has become much more than a *Verein* of writers—it is the focus of a human and literary tradition that has developed, largely independently of Germany, during the past decades. One of Gabriele Tergit's main concerns has been the assistance she is giving to those innumerable projects which have sprung up all over the world for recording and evaluating German literature in exile. A volume of autobiographies of Centre members—there are no fewer than 90 in a dozen countries—has been edited by her; it now ranks as a standard reference work on the subject of German writers and writings abroad.

She is still in the midst of her fruitful activity, and her countless friends wish her many, many more years of it—untouched by age in serenity and spiritual youth.

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RICHARD STRAUSS UNDER THE NAZIS

Norman Del Mar, the well-known British conductor, has devoted more than a decade to the writing of the most comprehensive English book on Richard Strauss. The third volume was published in 1972. (*Richard Strauss. A critical commentary on his life and works*; Barrie and Jenkins; £7.)

A general review of this immensely instructive work would be outside the scope of this journal. It seems, however, worth while to examine the information and the comments which the author provides on Strauss' controversial position during the Nazi era, and to see how this matter is dealt with by an unbiased English writer who combines a scholarly approach with a musician's enthusiasm for the great composer but also brings to his task that aversion against uncritical hero worship and that humane outlook which is characteristic of good English biographical literature.

The relevant points are discussed mainly within the biographical narrative; they are treated with a sense of proportion and without exaggerations.

There is not the slightest shade of sympathy with the Nazi régime. What the author musters in the way of understanding is reserved for a great creative artist who, himself an a-political being, is caught in a profound dilemma.

Politics as such had little interest for Strauss except where his country's cultural life was concerned. In spite of his natural egotism, which he shares with the majority of creative artists, he had always been ready to promote the cause of those of his fellow-composers who, in his opinion, merited it; they include Humperdinck, Mahler, Sibelius, Elgar and the early, pre-atonal, Schoenberg. He conducted some of their works, he organised festivals of contemporary music, and he fought for the legal rights of musicians in general. This concern for the status of musicians was one of the main reasons why he let himself be persuaded to become *Praesident* of the *Reichsmusikkammer* in 1933 (he was not consulted prior to his appointment).

At the same time, there were some personal reasons. The need to protect his Jewish daughter-in-law and his grandchildren—he did this with only limited success—enforced many a compromise on his part.

His disinclination to become uprooted through emigration he shared with Hauptmann, Furtwaengler and others. Completely absorbed in his creative activity he failed to grasp the implications of his staying in Nazi Germany.

His whole art was far remote from Nazi conceptions, and he was tainted in this respect as well as by his son's mixed marriage. If the régime at first tolerated and used him it did so for reasons of prestige. That he allowed himself to be thus used is certainly not to his credit, but it does not justify his classification as an active Nazi, and it is not surprising that the Denazification Court acquitted him.

There was one matter over which he would not compromise: his work and his artistic convictions. Here he made a stand which caused the breach between him and the régime.

After Hofmannsthal's death in 1929 Strauss had to look for another librettist for his

operas. Collaboration with Stefan Zweig had begun before 1933 and the hypercritical composer was completely happy with this choice and with Zweig's libretto of *Die Schweigsame Frau*. The score was completed in 1935, and Strauss now had to face the problems which arose out of his collaboration with a Jewish emigré author, especially in view of the composer's position as the highest official in the Third Reich's musical hierarchy. Nevertheless, after the libretto had been submitted to Hitler, Strauss obtained permission for the Dresden premiere of the opera. He enforced the inclusion of Zweig's name on the programme by threatening not to attend the premiere if this was not done.

Zweig felt awkward over the whole matter and about further co-operation with Strauss, and the composer wrote him a somewhat angry letter in which he tried to defend his actions and gave vent to his contempt of all racialism in music. The letter was intercepted by the Gestapo and handed to Hitler, with the result that Strauss had to resign from his position in the *Reichsmusikkammer*. His reaction was twofold: he sent a humble letter to Hitler in which he tried to make excuses, requesting an interview with "mein Fuehrer" (which was not granted); at the same time, he spoke his mind in a private memorandum in which he refuted Nazi antisemitism in the strongest terms.

Already in the autumn of 1934, he had written to the conductor Julius Kopsch: "I hear that the paragraph on Aryans is to be tightened up. . . . I do not wish to take part in any more of this kind of rubbish." (This referred to his official post.)

To protect himself and his family Strauss cultivated friendly relations with Schirach and even with Hans Frank, the Governor of occupied Poland. Nevertheless, he added further fuel to the flames by refusing to accept bombed-out evacuees in his Garmisch villa, telling the party officials with Bavarian frankness: "I hat den Krieg net wollen. Wegen mir haett keiner sterben brauchen!" The Nazis retaliated by more or less ignoring his 80th birthday, and Bormann himself saw to it that some people were billeted on Strauss' property.

It is significant that the destruction of the German opera houses, especially in Munich and Dresden (both associated with his premières) affected him more than anything else. His deep sense of loss is reflected in *Metamorphosen*, one of the greatest works of his last period.

In his Epilogue Norman Del Mar mentions the banning of Strauss' music in Israel and sums up his own view as follows:

"However much Strauss' conduct could be ascribed to weakness or self-delusion, it at no time stemmed from malice. But for his enormous prestige he would himself have stood in danger from Nazi retaliation for many actions of obstinate defiance after his fall from grace in 1935, and he was not short of advocates at the (denazification) tribunal even in the person of Nazi victims at home and foreign diplomats. Sad to say, there are those who still refuse to accept the findings of the Commission which in June 1948 after months of agonised indecision cleared Germany's Grand Old Man of Music of blame of participation in the misdeeds of the Third Reich."

Opinions on the whole issue will continue to differ, but the author's view deserves to be taken into account.

NEWS FROM BERLIN

This year's *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Prize* of the "Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz" was awarded to two students of music, the bassist Matthias Hoelle (Stuttgart) and the organist Martin Luecker (Hanover).

To mark the 10th anniversary of the death of *Paul Hindemith*, a memorial meeting was held under the auspices of the Society of Friends of the Philharmonie. The main speaker, Dr. Martin Langner (Berlin), reminded the audience of the support, Hindemith received from the progressive head of the musical department of the Ministry of Culture, Ministerialrat Leo Kestenberg, who later emigrated to Israel, where he died in 1962. As an *avant-garde* musician, Hindemith was exposed to attacks when the Nazis came to power. Though other prominent artists, among them Furtwaengler, tried to protect him, Hindemith ultimately decided to emigrate.

THOMAS THEODOR HEINE Appeal for Material

A doctor thesis about the life and work of the cartoonist, the late Thomas Theodor Heine, of "Simplicissimus" fame, is being written by Miss Elisabeth Stuewe (Hamburg). As a Jew and anti-Nazi, Th. Th. Heine was forced to emigrate. He first went to Prague and from there to Norway and finally to Sweden. The authoress is particularly interested in information about the artist's activities and works after his emigration. Any readers who are able to render assistance are asked to get in touch with: Miss Elisabeth Stuewe, Kunstgeschichtliches Seminar der Universitaet, Moorweidenstr. 18, 2 Hamburg 13, West Germany.

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Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

HEBREW WRITERS IN A QUANDARY

The Association of Hebrew Writers with its more than 300 members has not yet settled its main problem which has vexed it for over a year—whether to remain an exclusively Hebrew union or to open its membership to Israeli Arabs and other Israelis who write in languages other than Hebrew. This is not merely an organisational question but a delicate political and psychological issue, far transcending the organisational framework. So far, three proposals have been worked out to solve the dilemma.

One suggestion is to adopt a new name, "Association of Writers in the State of Israel" to comprise all authors who are citizens of the country. Non-Hebrew writers should be permitted to establish separate units within the Association, according to languages. The second proposal is that the Association should remain as it is, but co-operate and help in establishing other associations along cultural and language lines, such as for example, an Arab Writers Association. The third proposal says that the Association should not change its name and that all authors who are Israeli citizens, should be eligible for full and equal membership.

As the matter stands at present, the establishment of an Arab Writers' Association which would closely co-operate with the existing Hebrew Writers' Association is the most likely arrangement to be adopted. They would be joined in a roof "Federation of Israel Authors", comprising all professional writers, both those belonging to a union set up for a specific language, and individuals, not affiliated to any specific union.

Education Minister Yigal Allon said he would have voted to include Israeli Arab writers in the Hebrew Writers' Association if he had been a member, but as Education Minister he felt he could not interfere. The discussion has been carried on with great bitterness. Opponents of any change argue that the Association is more than a trade union concerned with royalties and fees and the social well-being of its members: that it is part and parcel of the Jewish national renaissance movement, an important instrument of Zionism with ideological and spiritual values. It was established at a time when the Hebrew language had to fight for its place in the cultural life in the country and even today it constitutes a spiritual asset which would be watered down or destroyed by the transformation into a mere trade organisation.

On the other hand, it is argued that Jewish writers in Israel cannot sanction an exclusiveness against which Jewish writers in the Diaspora have fought and continue to fight, and thus drive Arab writers into subversion; that by an over-cautious reaction to the prospect of having Arab members, opponents of any change are excluding from the Association dozens, perhaps hundreds of Jewish immigrant writers in English, Yiddish, Russian, Spanish, etc. Whilst Yiddish was once a real threat to the supremacy of Hebrew, today, in spite of the large influx of Yiddish writers from Eastern Europe, the Hebrew language is secure. Lastly, so it is argued, Hebrew writers who voted against allowing Arabs to join their Association, did a disservice to the cause of tolerance.

Among the advocates of change, there are some who go a long way and would like to discard the Zionist component not only from the Association but from the whole establishment of Israel. However, these Jewish writers who wish to transform the Association into a technical-professional organisation of the country's authors, have been joined by only very few Israeli Arabs. Hardly any of their intellectual leaders have expressed any views on this subject. Thus a peculiar situation has developed: whatever their Jewish colleagues may say, it is doubtful whether the majority of Arab Israeli writers would join the Association even if a change took place.

SCENE FROM ISRAEL

Prices Rise

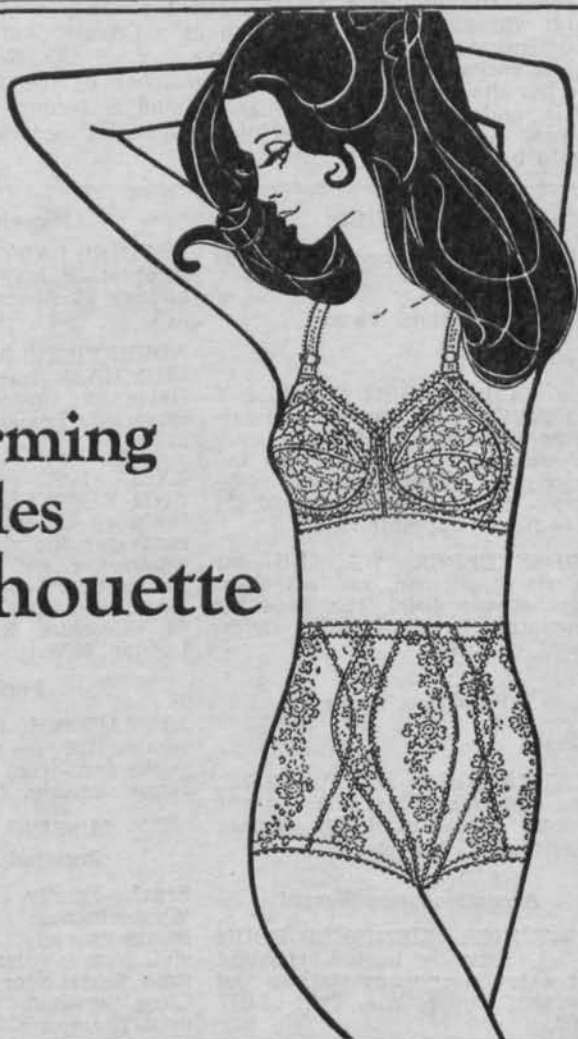
The Government having drastically slashed subsidies, Israel is experiencing a huge rise in food prices, which went up more than 60 per cent in some cases. Bus fares also went up by 50 per cent, and there has been a steep rise in post office charges. This resulted in an angry demonstration in the poor Hatikva quarter of Tel Aviv. Much of the Black Panthers anger was directed against Right-wing Likud members of the Knesset, whose homes were attacked.

Law of the Return

A number of diaspora Chief Rabbis have asked the Israeli Government to amend the Law of the Return so that only conversions performed according to the *halacha* (rabbinical law) will be recognised as valid.

But, in the view of American Conservative and Reform (Liberal) organisations, Jewish unity would be imperilled if only those conversions performed abroad by Orthodox rabbis were recognised as valid.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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2. Wir haben vor einigen Monaten berichtet, dass die Pensionen ab 1.1.1974 um 8.7% erhöht werden wurden. Die Novellen haben nunmehr im Zusammenhang mit der Aenderung des Errechnungssystems verfügt, dass die Erhöhung 10.4% betragen soll und die Pensionen wurden ab 1.1.1974 um diesen Prozentatz erhöht. Abgesehen von der alljährlich stattfindenden Erhöhung der Pensionen, werden die Pensionen am 1.7.1974 und am 1.7.1975 eine ausserordentliche Erhöhung um je 3% erfahren.

3. Bei neu anfallenden Pensionen wird die erstmalige Anpassung bereits mit dem dem Stichtag der Pension folgenden Kalenderjahr und nicht erst—wie bisher—nach zweijähriger Verzögerung erfolgen. Pensionen bei denen der Stichtag im Jahre 1973 lag, wurden ab 1.1.1974 um 7.5% erhöht.

4. Die sonstigen Bestimmungen der Novellen sind im Wesentlichen technisch-administrativer Art, mit folgender Ausnahme: Während bisher die Berechtigung zum jederzeitigen Eintritt in die freiwillige Weiterversicherung an das Vorhandensein von 120 Beitragsmonaten gebunden war, werden von nun an 120 Versicherungsmonate (also auch Ersatzzeiten) genügen. Dies kann in vereinzelten Fällen von Interesse sein.

5. Schliesslich sei erwähnt, dass die für den 1.7.1974 vorgesehene Erhöhung des Beitragssatzes in der Pensionsversicherung von 17% auf 17.5% vorläufig ausgesetzt wurde u. zw. wie die Regierungsvorlage zu den Novellen

berichtet "im Hinblick auf die bereits jetzt klar erkennbaren Ueberschüsse der Pensionsversicherungsanstalt." Fürwahr, ein bemerkenswerter Zustand der Sozialversicherungsfinanzen!

C.I.K.

APPEAL OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Emergency Book Fund

The Hebrew University has instituted an Emergency Book Fund for the 40 per cent students who are still away from the campus. The majority of them are serving in the Forces and some, unfortunately quite a few, are recuperating from injuries. The plan is to give as many as possible a second chance to start an academic year without delay. To give those who cannot yet be discharged an opportunity to carry on with their studies, a scheme for the supply of multiple text books and teaching aids has been evolved. The cost for this additional burden cannot be covered by the anyhow greatly depleted funds of the University. The Friends of the Hebrew University therefore urgently appeal for emergency contributions, which should be sent to 3 St. John's Wood Road, London, NW8 8RB.

NEW "JOINT" DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr. Theodore D. Feder (Geneva) has been appointed director of overseas operations of the "Joint". He succeeds Mr. Louis D. Horwitz who retired. Mr. Feder has been in the service of the "Joint" for 28 years and held responsible positions in Munich, Frankfurt, Vienna, Teheran and Israel (MALBEN).

GERMAN ALF TETZLAFF-GARNETT

A West German television series with the main character called Alf Tetzlaff, is based on the British Broadcasting Corporation's "Till Death Us Do Part". Tetzlaff, a West German Alf Garnett, is a middle-aged paterfamilias who expresses stubborn, nationalistic, narrow-minded views. His outbursts of absurd rage against all views differing from his own occasionally include remarks which could be considered offensive to Jews. However, neither the actor nor the script can be construed as antisemitic, and no Jewish representative body in West Germany has considered the programme to be so.

MRS. CLARA FREYHAN 95

Even in our times of longevity the attainment of the age of 95 is an exception. Yet what makes the exception still more remarkable in the case of Mrs. Clara Freyhan, who will be 95 on March 16, is the fact that her alertness and, above all, the clarity of her intellect seem to belie her age. Throughout her life, Mrs. Freyhan has taken an active interest in public affairs. When she still lived in Berlin's Hansaviertel, she held office with the local groups of the Democratic Party and of the Central-Verein, and in this country, her activities have mainly been centred around the Belsize Square Synagogue. Yet the AJR can also claim her as a most interested member. Whenever one has the opportunity of talking to Mrs. Freyhan, one is amazed of the concise way in which her mind works. May this go on for a long time to come.

PHILIPP CROMWELL 80

On January 21, Philipp Cromwell celebrated his 80th birthday. He came to this country from his native Nuremberg in 1933 and assisted many refugees in their attempts to settle in this country. As a member of the Legal Advisers' Panel of the AJR during the war, and whenever his vast store of knowledge of both English and German law was considered useful, he gave unstintingly of his time and effort. After the war he practised both English and German law, and took up many seemingly hopeless restitution cases. He now lives in semi-retirement at his Wimbledon home, and we belatedly express our sincerest wishes for many more years of successful activities.

APPOINTMENT

Mr. Alan Lipfriend, of London, has been sworn in as a Circuit Court judge. He is a council member of the New London Synagogue, a member of the Jewish Graduates' Association and a former president of the students' union of Queen Mary College, London.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Dienemann.—Mrs. Erna C. Dienemann, of Flat 20, Wyndham House, Plantation Road, Oxford, will celebrate her 75th birthday on March 7.

Deaths

Bab.—Mrs. Erna Bab passed away peacefully during the night of January 24. Deeply mourned by her daughters and son-in-law, K. W. Bab, Mr. and Mrs. H. Roland of London, and Mrs. U. David, Malta.

Beselau.—Dr. Alfred Beselau (formerly Nürnberg), of 22 Mapesbury Court, Shoot-up Hill, London, N.W.2, died on February 4, aged 73. Deeply mourned by his niece, Lotte Winant (formerly Weinschenk), relatives and many friends.

Mahler.—Mr. Louis Mahler, of 34 West Heath Court, North End Road, London, N.W.11, died suddenly on January 27. Deeply mourned by his wife, Ethel Mahler, sister-in-law, Irene Pollak, and many friends and relatives everywhere.

Marcus.—Mrs. Gerta Marcus, widow of Leo Marcus, of 8 Ridge Crescent, Whitefield, Manchester, Lancs, died suddenly at home on January 25. Sadly missed by her sister, Hilde Cohen, and her many friends.

Mayer.—Mrs. Adele Mayer passed away peacefully at home, aged 90 years, on January 16. Beloved mother of Else (Klugmann), Hilde and the late Emmy, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Thanks for Condolence

Glass.—I would like to thank all my friends for their kind words of sympathy on the death of my husband, Karl Glass, of 5 Tarranbrae, Willesden Lane, London, N.W.6 (formerly Breslau), also in the name of my family. It has been a great comfort to us.—Liesel Glass.

CLASSIFIED

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Personal

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries

Segal.—Family of Vienna 16, Wyprechtgasse (Corner Schellhammergasse). Would relatives and friends please contact Miss Rosa Schlesinger, 6 Surbiton Hall Close, Surbiton Crescent, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 2JX.

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IN MEMORIAM

CHEMJO VINAVER

The musician, Chemjo Vinaver, died in Jerusalem at the age of 73. He was born in Warsaw and, after having studied in Berlin under Professor Siegfried Ochs, became a synagogue choir conductor of the Berlin Jewish Community and also built up the well-known Vinaver Choir. In 1939, he went to the United States where he again founded a choir and gave performances in New York and many other cities of the States. In the 60s he re-emigrated to Israel. Chemjo Vinaver was deeply rooted in the traditions of Eastern European Jewry, whose musical heritage he kept alive and integrated into his liturgical and secular choir recitals. He also edited a two volume "Anthology of Jewish Music". His widow is the poetess Mascha Kaleko.

PROF. HERMANN MANNHEIM

Professor Dr. Hermann Mannheim, the jurist and criminologist, died near London at the age of 84. Before the Nazis came to power, he was a professor at Berlin University and a judge at the "Kammergericht". He came to this country in 1934 and was appointed reader in criminology in 1946. He retired from the post in 1955. His works include a book on "Criminal Justice and Social Reconstruction" (1946) which exerted great influence on legislation in this field. He also was a co-founder of the British Journal of Delinquency (now British Journal of Criminology) and, from 1940 to 1960, was an executive committee member of the Howard League for Penal Reform. In 1959 he was appointed OBE. *The Times*, in its obituary, describes him as the "father of modern English criminology". Professor Mannheim was a supporter of the AJR.

MR. FRANK GODFREY

Mr. Frank Godfrey passed away at the age of 73. He was a member of the AJR Board since its inception and, from the very beginning, took a special interest in the welfare work for his fellow refugees. His co-operation became particularly valuable when Otto Schiff House, the first of the Old Age Homes, was established and he was appointed a member of its House Committee. From then onwards, he would, as long as his health permitted it, spend his Sunday mornings in the Home, visiting the residents and discussing their various problems with them. Knowing the hopes, and also the shortcomings, of the residents, his contributions to the House Committee meetings were always constructive and full of understanding. He will be sadly missed by his colleagues on the Committee, the staff of the Home and the residents to whom he was a trusted friend.

Mr. Godfrey's social care for others also made him a most valuable member of the Leo Baeck Lodge. He was chairman of the Lodge's Old Age Fund Committee and also a member of its Council.

MR. WILLIAM (WILHELM) GRAETZ

Mr William (Wilhelm) Graetz, who died in Philadelphia at the age of 94, took a leading part in Jewish life in Berlin, where he lived prior to his emigration. He was a Board member of the Jewish community from 1931-1936, and for many years president of the ORT. After having spent several years in Buenos Aires, he went to Philadelphia in 1947, where he rendered effective services to victims of Nazi persecution in matters of restitution. He also was the founder of the Heinrich Graetz Lodge in Philadelphia and its Honorary Life President.

PROF. LEO BRAUNER

On January 4, Dr. Leo Brauner, professor emeritus of botany at the University of Munich, was buried at the Munich New Jewish cemetery. He was born in Vienna 75 years ago and started his academic career in Jena (1925-33). He first emigrated to England and later obtained a professorship at Istanbul University. He returned to Germany 22 years later and was ordinary professor and director of the Botanic Garden in Munich until 1966. His works include several handbooks on botanic subjects.

DR. ERNST BENEDIKT

Dr. Jur. Ernst Benedikt died in Vienna in his 92nd year. He was a son of Moriz Benedikt (1849-1920), the co-editor of the "Neue Freie Presse". He joined the staff of his father's newspaper in 1906 and was its chief editor from 1920-1931. After having been arrested by the Gestapo, he emigrated to Sweden, where he lived until 1962.

Letters to the Editor

"WHAT DOES ONE DO?"

Sir,—I understand only too well, the problem of your correspondent Annemarie Poloway. In 1956, I returned to Vienna for the first time, since I came to this country, just a few months before the beginning of the war. It was natural, that I should have wanted to see the block of flats, where I had spent my childhood with my late parents and sister. However, I was not too sure whether in fact, I should knock on the door of the actual apartment. It was only after some hesitation, that I did this. When there was no reply, I was almost relieved, for entering the premises, might well have been emotionally too much for me. I have been back to Vienna many times since, but have never attempted to see the place again.

In my capacity as a coach courier, I take my passengers on sight-seeing tours of the city, and am often complimented on my enthusiasm. One day, a letter reached the offices of the touring company I work for. "... only a native of the City of Vienna could have spoken with so much love and affection." I suppose I should have been flattered, yet I experienced a feeling of guilt. How could I possibly love the town, where my family and our people suffered so much misery? Even now, after so many years, all this remains a dilemma.

Some years ago, Karen Gershon compiled a book "We came as Children", wherein people in similar positions gave accounts of their feelings and experiences when they returned to their home towns after the war. What a wonderful thing it would be, if those like myself, who contributed to this book, could one day meet. May I ask, through the courtesy of your columns, anyone who is interested in such a venture to contact me. It would certainly all be very worth while.

OTTO DEUTSCH.

44a Surbiton Avenue,
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GERMAN AUTHORS

Sir,—I read with great interest the review of Peter de Mendelssohn's essays on German writers by Mr. E. Hearst in your last edition.

It does not become quite clear from the review, which are Mr. de Mendelssohn's and which Mr. Hearst's opinions which throw light from a very narrow angle on the different writers' life and work. Many of these opinions are highly debatable in my view.

However, I believe that it is essential that certain basic facts at least should be correct.

Hesse was not born in Switzerland and did not become German by naturalisation. He was German by birth, born on July 2, 1877, in Calw (Wuerttemberg) and became Swiss by naturalisation in 1923.

(Dr.) ELIZABETH F. LOBL.

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Isokon, Lawn Road, London, NW3 2XD.

JULIUS KLAUSNER BIOGRAPHY

To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth, on March 10, of Julius Klausner, the founder of the famous shoe stores firm of Leiser in Berlin, his youngest daughter, Margot Klausner, has published a biography in his memory and that of his wife and fellow-worker Dora, née Leiser. The book, which is written in German, also carries photos of family members and of the Leiser stores. Interested readers may obtain copies from: Mrs. Margot Klausner, 2 K.K.L. Boulevard, Tel Aviv, or Mr. K. Balaszekul, Breitenbachplatz 21, Berlin-Dahlem.

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THE MIDDLE EAST

SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

European Parliamentarians Meet in Berlin

120 members of 13 European parliaments attended a meeting in West Berlin of the European Parliamentary Friends of Israel. Between them they represented the whole political spectrum, with the exception of Communists and Fascists. The meeting took place at the Berlin Rathaus, and the participants were warmly greeted by Klaus Schuetz, Lord Mayor of West Berlin.

Among the participants were Annemarie Renger, the Speaker of the Bundestag; Otto Probst, the Deputy Speaker of the Austrian Parliament; Jacques Servan-Schreiber, editor and member of the French Assembly; Lord Janner of Leicester; Philip Goodhart, M.P.; Sir John Longford-Holt, M.P.; Raymond Fletcher, M.P.; Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P. The Knesset was represented by Dr. Elimelech Rimalt (Liberal) and Aviad Yaffe (Labour).

A declaration unanimously adopted at the end of the meeting pointed out that the conference was held in West Berlin "in order to underscore the fact that the struggle of Israel, as a free and democratic country, for the right to live within secure and acknowledged borders, symbolises the struggle for freedom of all nations". The declaration stresses that the negotiations between Israel and Egypt were made possible because Mrs. Golda Meir and President Sadat approached them "without fanatically entrenched positions". "Our friendship with Israel", the declaration concludes, "should not be interpreted as hostility to the Arabs. But we must stress that, when strong industrial forces are trying to put pressure on Israel, it is a sign that aggression and blackmail can pay political dividends. This must never happen".

GOLDMANN OPTIMISTIC

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, addressed 50 delegates from many countries attending a conference of the W.J.C. governing council in Zurich, meeting under strong security precautions. The U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., he said, wanted to save their policy of détente and did not want it menaced by tension in the Middle East and the danger of a confrontation. Even the Soviet Union had its own egotistical interest in Israel's existence because, without it, the great majority of the Arab States would be pro-American. Expressing optimism about Israel's future, Dr. Goldmann also said that the future of the Jewish people did not depend on Sharm el Sheikh but on the commitment of the young Jewish generation.

It was the obligation of the diaspora to encourage Israel to make use of the chance it now had to conclude peace, even at the price of concessions. But the limit of such concessions must be left to the decision of Israel and world Jewry should abstain from interfering in this problem.

RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA JEWRY

A three-day seminar in Jerusalem under the auspices of President Katzir, was attended by 100 leading Jewish intellectuals from Israel and abroad. The discussion centred on the impact of the October War on world Jewry and on its relations with Israel.

In the view of several speakers, the massive Jewish support for Israel has led to the complete identification of world Jewry with Israel in the eyes of the non-Jew. As attitudes to Israel are frequently projected onto local Jewish communities, the paradox has been created that whereas the original Zionist theory was that a Jewish State would solve the problem of antisemitism, it has in fact on occasion been the cause of its growth. One effect of this has been to draw Israel and world Jewry closer together.

Although reactions among the Jewish masses at the time of the October War were more intensive than ever, several speakers reported apathy and indifference among the intellectual community. By dropping the threat to Israel's existence and concentrating on the regaining of lost territories, Egypt's Sadat has won widespread sympathy. The fashionable involvement with the Third World has also precluded concern for Israel.

NEW KNESSET

In the formal opening of the Eighth Knesset by President Katzir, 40 newcomers took their places in the 120-seat Israeli Parliament. There are six women among the new parliamentarians. Four more reserve generals are also new Knesset Members. The Labour alignment list includes Hammad Abu Rabin, a Beduin chieftain from the Negev.

THE DAN HOTEL FIRE

A fire in the building of the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv on January 6 has led to a police action and an enquiry, in the course of which four people have been arrested. Most of the suspects are foreign staff members of the international chain of Tifnis clubs in Europe, against whom an investigation is now being conducted for suspicion of arson and, at the same time, for tax evasion. When these lines were written (January 21) one of the alleged culprits, a Swiss named Werner Traub, was just allowed bail of I£60,000 (about £6,000), and the judge ordered a retention in custody of the suspect's passport. It has been reported that one of Traub's guarantors is Raffi Shauli, the separated husband of Mandy Rice-Davies-Shauli, known in England from the Profumo affair. Mandy was also among the audience at some of the public hearings of the police court in Tel Aviv.

ARABS AND JEWISH JOURNALISTS

French Correspondents

On the tour of Arab countries by Mr. Michel Jobert, the French Foreign Minister, journalists who requested visas to accompany him were asked to produce a certificate of baptism. Le Monde's Egyptian-born Eric Rouleau, who is of Jewish origin, was refused a visa by the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Paris. Miss Nicole Bernheim, a Jewess, was designated in place of Mr. Rouleau, but her application for a visa was also rejected, with a clear indication that her religion was the reason.

Besides Le Monde, the French Central Press Agency and the weekly Nouvel Observateur boycotted the Foreign Minister's visit. A number of organisations have also registered their protest. Le Monde criticised Mr. Jobert for refusing to intervene against the Saudi request for the production of baptism certificates. French diplomats, and probably other French nationals, are requested to produce baptism certificates before they are issued with visas to visit Saudi Arabia.

Editor of La Stampa

The Arab Boycott Office called for the dismissal of Dr. Arrigo Levi, the Jewish editor of the Turin newspaper, La Stampa, controlled by the Fiat Motor Company. The paper had published a humorous article on Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. Unless Dr. Levi was dismissed, the Boycott Office threatened, the Fiat company's "status in the Arab countries" would have to be revised. After an outcry by various groups, and a stand by Mr. Giovanni Agnelli, Fiat's president, the Italian Government rejected the Arab demands, stating that the issue must be clarified and solved through appropriate channels.

The International Press Institute in Zurich pointing out that one of the stated reasons for the actions was the Jewish origin of both journalists—the same argument which led to the death of six million people at the hands of the Nazis—denounced the resurgence of "a most shocking form of discrimination, one inspired by racialist and religious pretences".

A threat by President Gaddafi to break off diplomatic relations with Italy unless two well-known Italian journalists, Mr. Carlo Fruttero and Mr. Franco Lucentini, were dismissed by La Stampa for criticising him in an article, has been reported by Italian newspapers.

BRITAIN LIFTS EMBARGO

As a result of the Foreign Secretary's announcement of the lifting of Britain's arms embargo, paid-for ammunition and spare parts for British-made Centurion tanks have been released. The shipment of these to Israel was halted when the Yom Kippur War broke out. Also released are certain items of defence equipment sent by Israel to Britain for repair and reconditioning before the outbreak of war.

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