

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Board Meeting of the AJR

The multitude and importance of the activities of the AJR became evident anew at the Board meeting held on January 26 at Hannah Karminski House. More than 60 people, including delegates from the Provinces, attended the meeting. Many of them are rendering their regular services in one sphere or another of our work, especially for the benefit of the Homes. Yet of no lesser importance are those members of the Board whose standing is based on their position in other organisations with which AJR co-operates. Therefore, the Board has been rightly described as a kind of parliament of the former German and Austrian Jews in this country.

The meeting was opened by the chairman of the AJR, Mr. W. M. Behr, O.B.E., who first paid tribute to those Executive and Board members who had passed away since the Board last met: Mr. Richard Schneider (long-standing member of the Executive), Mr. Frank Godfrey (member of the Otto Schiff House Committee since its inception), Dr. Ludwig Eschwege and Mr. Perez Mosbacher. He then welcomed the newly elected Board members who were present for the first time: Miss M. Babington, Dr. H. G. Francken, Miss J. Lee, Mrs. I. Loewenthal, Mrs. G. Meyer, Mr. W. R. Powell and Mrs. C. Salzberger, and Miss I. Fuss (Glasgow).

Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary) in his report stated that as before *AJR Information* would try to present a fair balance between news, comments and articles on subjects of special interest to readers of our background.

Turning to the work for the *Homes* he said that there was a long waiting list for the Flatlet Home (Eleanor Rathbone House) and a very great demand for admission to Osmond House, the Home for the physically frail. People now usually apply for admission to one of the Old Age Homes, when they are already 80 years or older, because they want to retain their independence in their own private residences as long as possible. This in turn has increased the average age of the residents of the Homes.

With regard to *Osmond House* the speaker stressed that, like the other Homes (Otto Schiff House, Otto Hirsch House, Leo Baeck House and Heinrich Stahl House), the Home was a residential home in the meaning of Part III of the National Assistance Act and not a nursing home. This limits the categories of elderly people who are eligible for admission, quite apart from the fact that an unduly high proportion of residents who require heavy nursing would create grave problems of staffing and finance and also have an overall effect on the character of *Osmond House*. On the other hand it has turned out that the number of those appli-

cants who can only properly be looked after in the four-bed wards is lower than it was anticipated when the Home was built. Therefore, three of the five four-bed wards will be converted into single rooms thus increasing the accommodation facilities for such new applicants or transferees from the other Homes, who can equally well be cared for in single rooms.

The speaker also mentioned that, as the Homes have now been in existence for almost 20 years, the reserves for their maintenance set aside out of the proceeds from the restituted heirless and communal property in West Germany have decreased. Though this does not yet present an acute problem for the next few years, the time has come to assess the period for which special Homes for Nazi victims will still be required, taking into account that former refugees of the comparatively younger age groups have gradually integrated into their environment.

The work of the AJR also includes the administration of *Hannah Karminski House*, which is owned by the AJR Charitable Trust. The house serves as the venue of the AJR Club and also provides accommodation in bed-sitting rooms for seven elderly refugees. The Hall is used for functions of various organisations.

Turning to matters of *restitution* and related subjects the speaker stated that, apart from questions which sometimes arise in the course of the implementation of compensation awards, the two main laws under which applications are still pending are the *Lastenausgleichsgesetz* and the *Social Insurance laws*. With regard to claims against the German Democratic Republic, which has now established diplomatic relations with Western countries and has also been admitted to the United Nations, efforts are in a very initial stage and nothing can be said about the outcome at present.

One of the great successes of the AJR during the year under review was the reduction by 50 per cent of the *taxability* of German *pensions* to former public servants and Jewish communal workers and of German and Austrian Social Insurance pensions. This subject would be dealt with separately by Dr. F. E. Falk. The part played by the AJR in having this regulation incorporated in the Finance Act, 1974, is reflected in a letter by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Joel Barnett, M.P., in which he described the Memorandum submitted by the AJR as "extremely useful in focusing on the question of payments from Austria and West Germany". The author of this Memorandum was Dr. F. E. Falk, and special tribute is due to him. Effective steps in this matter had also been taken by our friend, Dr. C. I. Kapralik. The successful out-

come re-affirms the important role to be played by the AJR as the representative body of the Jews from Germany and Austria which, due to its standing and experience, can safeguard the interests of our group.

The speaker also referred to the work of the *Council of Jews from Germany* of which the AJR is the British constituent. After the death of its President, Dr. Siegfried Moses, the Council elected Mr. W. M. Behr (Britain), Mr. H. Gerling (Israel) and Dr. C. C. Silberman (U.S.A.) as co-chairmen. A few weeks ago, a meeting of the co-chairmen was held in London, which was also attended by Mrs. R. Fabian (Paris), Dr. H. Tramer (Tel Aviv) and Dr. W. Rosenstock (Hon. Secretary of the Council). Among other things concerning the work of the Council those present explored the possibilities of obtaining the means badly required for the continuation of the essential and constructive welfare work of the Council's constituents in various countries of resettlement.

Turning to questions of *Finances and Organisation* Dr. Rosenstock reported that, subject to the final auditing of the accounts for the year 1974, it appears that the income from subscriptions and donations has risen by 10 per cent as compared with 1973. On the other hand, the expenditure is estimated to have risen by 25 per cent, especially due to the repeatedly increased costs for the production and postage of "*AJR Information*".

The losses in membership (195), mainly due to deaths, could be made up by the same number of new enrolments.

Mr. W. M. Behr thanked Dr. Rosenstock for his report. Referring to the 30th year of the publication of *AJR Information*, he paid special tribute to Dr. Rosenstock's work as the editor. The recognition of our monthly was reflected in a number of messages received on that occasion. They included a letter by the Nobel Prize winner, Sir Hans A. Krebs, who expressed his "admiration for the part Dr. Rosenstock played in this success story". After having read out the letter, Mr. Behr presented Dr. Rosenstock with a painting on behalf of the AJR Executive as a token of their appreciation.

Mrs. M. Casson reported that most of the persons on the register of the *AJR Employment Agency* were looking for work as part-time home helpers, either permanently or temporarily, e.g., in cases of illness. Altogether, in 1974 home help was provided on 140 occasions. It was, however, difficult to meet the demands, if the prospective employers lived in districts far away from the usual residences of former refugees or if work in so-called "unsocial" hours was required. The payments for home help vary between 75p and £1 per hour.

The *Employment Agency* also has on its register free-lance workers, e.g., dressmakers and home typists, to whom enquirers are directed.

The *Social Services Department* dealt with 90 new clients during the year under review.

Continued on page 2, column 1

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Continued from page 1

Altogether it looked after approximately 160 people in 1974, about 20 of whom had special problems and visited the office frequently.

There were various kinds of enquiries, e.g. rent tribunal cases, in which callers had to be advised where they could obtain help.

The department also receives frequent offers of voluntary help. Some of these volunteers assist the Meals-on-Wheels service by delivering the meals or helping in the kitchen. It is, however, not always possible to offer regular work to the helpers, because they are mainly required in cases of emergency.

Mrs. R. Anderman (Member of the AJR Executive) reported that at present the Meals-on-Wheels Service has 80 clients, about 30 of whom require special diets. The meals are provided for every day and delivered three times each week. The full charge is 35p per meal, but there are also special arrangements in cases of indigence. As far as the expenditure for provisions and staff can not be covered by payments from the recipients the scheme is subsidised by the AJR Charitable Trust.

Both in 1973 and 1974, parties were held for the voluntary helpers. In 1975, it is intended also to invite the recipients of the meals.

Mrs. M. Jacoby (Chairman of the AJR Club) reported that beyond meeting at the gatherings of the AJR Club, many members had established personal social contacts with each other. Quite a few also arranged to spend their holidays together. Club members are provided with tea and supper, and the takings cover the food expenses. There are at present 412 members.

In addition to the informal gatherings in the Club rooms, which are open from Sunday to Thursday, the Club arranges functions of various kinds, e.g. concerts, slide shows and talks. Last summer there was a most successful outing to Luton Hoo, where Mrs. Eva Woodman rendered her invaluable services as an experienced guide. The festivals, e.g. Seder, Chanukah and Purim, are always marked by special celebrations, and particular thanks are due to Rabbi Dr. Salzberger for his unfailing helpfulness on such occasions. At the celebration of Mrs. Jacoby's 92nd birthday, the Children's Choir under Mrs. Metzger-Lichtenstern, whose performances are always greatly enjoyed by the members, rendered recitals.

Last year's *Bring and Buy Sale* yielded £565. These proceeds were divided between the Gertrud Schachne Fund and the Margaret Jacoby-Orghler Fund, both of which used them for contributions towards holidays, and the Ahavah Children's Home in Israel.

This year's *Bring and Buy Sale* was scheduled for Sunday, February 23.

In thanking Mrs. Jacoby for her report, Mr. Behr wished her many years of undiminished vigour in carrying out her wonderful work.

Mrs. M. Pottlitzer gave a progress report on the *History of Immigration Research*, which was inaugurated by the Council of Jews from Germany a few years ago. The original conception had been very ambitious, but in the course of time it has turned out that there are not sufficient qualified people available to deal with all aspects of the subject. It also became increasingly evident that the situation varies widely from country to country. At present, efforts are concentrated on preparing a "Sammelwerk" which is to include one or several essays on each of the main countries of resettlement. Mrs. Pottlit-

zer reported that she had conducted a great number of interviews and was now in the process of evaluating these interviews as well as other sources available. The names of the interviewees will, of course, not be revealed in the publication. One of the conclusions to which she had come in the course of the interviews was that quite a few people felt more integrated 20 years ago than they do now. In perusing the interviews she will have to keep in mind that they are subjective and that, to get a balanced picture of the overall situation, the danger of false generalisations has to be avoided. Mrs. Pottlitzer expressed her appreciation to all those who had helped her in her work.

Pensions under the Finance Act 1974

Dr. F. E. Falk, in his report about *Pensions under the Finance Act, 1974*, recalled that efforts by the AJR to mitigate or remove British taxation on pensions paid to Nazi victims started in 1955. The first success was achieved in 1956, when a clause was included in the Finance Act by which accumulated arrears of pensions awarded to former refugees could be spread over the years of accrual—a new principle in U.K. tax law reducing the liability considerably. In the Finance Act, 1961, due to efforts extending over 5 years, in which the AJR took a decisive part, annuities ("Renten") paid to Nazi victims under the German Federal Compensation Law (BEG) which because of their special character had been tax-exempted in Germany, were entirely exempt from U.K. tax, dating back to 1953 when these payments began. This complete exemption continues (now under Section 377, Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970)—the BEG compensation annuities are not affected by the Finance Act, 1974.

Pensions payable to former public servants and communal officials which were taxable in Germany, as well as German and Austrian Social Insurance Pensions, remained subject to U.K. tax to the extent they were remitted here. These pensions though containing a substantial element of indemnification—which the speaker described in some detail—were not covered by the exemption clause mentioned.

The authorities resisted all efforts to mitigate the U.K. tax payable thereon. The liability could, however, be legally avoided by the beneficiaries remitting these pensions to territories in the Sterling area which are not part of the U.K., e.g., the Channel Islands if, financially, they could do so.

Induced by the "Lorrho Affair" and other considerations, the Chancellor decided to abolish the remittance basis for foreign salaries and pensions received by U.K. re-

sidents and to charge these payments to tax on the so-called "arising" basis, i.e. on the amount received, whether or not remitted to the U.K., but less a deduction of 10 per cent. Clauses to that effect were included in the Finance Bill 1974. During the debate on the Bill, certain modifications were proposed. The AJR considered it its duty, in these circumstances to ask for "some measure of fairness and justice in particular to the victims of Nazi persecution" in a strong Memorandum submitted to some Members of Parliament and through them to the Treasury. The substantial element of indemnification in the German and Austrian Pensions paid to Nazi victims was stressed and explained in detail. An initiative in this matter was also taken by Dr. C. I. Kapralik, especially on behalf of the Austrian Nazi victims. Support was given in particular by M.P.s Geoffrey Finsberg, Greville Janner, Q.C. and Peter Rees, Q.C., as well as by Lord Janner. The result was the inclusion in the Finance Act, 1974, of a clause by which only one-half of the pensions payable under any special provision of German or Austrian Law made for victims of Nazi persecution will be taxable (Section 22 (2) Finance Act, 1974).

The speaker also mentioned that, as the remittance basis has been abolished as from 6.4.1974, pension moneys accumulated in Jersey etc. could be remitted to the U.K. without any tax liability arising from such remittances.

Dr. Falk further reported that, after the promulgation of the Finance Act, 1974, the AJR had submitted a comprehensive Memorandum to the Treasury and the Board of Inland Revenue listing the special provisions relating to pensions of German and Austrian Law made for Nazi victims and consequently giving rise to the 50 per cent exemption. It would be necessary to produce to the Revenue in each case the original pension "Bescheid", or, in the case of public servants' pensions, a statement from the German paying body certifying that the pension was paid under the special laws for Indemnification of Members of the Public Service.

The speaker also mentioned that efforts were being made to have the German and Austrian invalidity pensions paid to Nazi victims in this country exempted from U.K. tax, thus bringing their treatment into line with that of the British invalidity pensions which are tax free. A meeting with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Joel Barnett, M.P. was being arranged.

Mr. Behr thanked Dr. Falk for his report and, above all, for his expert and successful efforts in a matter of greatest importance to many in our midst. He also extended his thanks to the other speakers as well as to Dr. E. A. Lomnitz, the Deputy General Secretary. After question time, he concluded the meeting, thanking the board members for their co-operation and interest.

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HOME NEWS

JEWISH BOOK WEEK 1975

March 10-13

This year's Jewish Book Week will be held from March 10 to 13 at Hillel House, 1/2 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1. The AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of the opening lecture on Monday, March 10, when Rabbi Dr. David Kamhi and Rabbi Abraham Levy will speak about "The Sephardim—Past and Present". There will be a Hebrew Evening on Tuesday, a talk by Mr. David Kessler on "The Falashas—The Black Jews of Ethiopia" on Wednesday, and a symposium on "Aims of Jewish Education" with Dr. E. S. Conway, Rabbi N. L. Rabinovitch and Mr. W. Stanton as the speakers on Thursday. All functions commence at 8 p.m. Admission is free. Members of the AJR and their friends are cordially invited.

Details about additional functions during the week may be obtained from: Jewish Book Council, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1 0EP (telephone 01-387 3081).

WILSON ADDRESSES POALE ZION

Prime Minister Harold Wilson was guest speaker at the recent Yorkshire Poale Zion and Labour Friends of Israel annual dinner in Leeds. In off-the-cuff remarks after his main address he said that the contacts between the British and Israeli Governments had been considerably strengthened in the past year. He also stressed that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people must be ensured in any settlement, but that this should not be at the expense of Israel's security.

TORY PRO-ISRAEL GROUP

A pro-Israel group within the Conservative Party has been successfully launched on the third try. The "Conservative Friends of Israel" has the support of nearly 90 MPs including Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Mr. James Prior, Mr. Paul Channon and Mr. Peter Thomas, QC, in addition to other front-bench spokesmen. A number of former Ministers have also joined the group, the president of which is the Duke of Devonshire, with Mr. Hugh Fraser, MP, chairman of its Parliamentary group, and Mr. Michael Fidler the director.

At the inaugural luncheon held in the House of Commons, more than 20 MPs present were told that the establishment of the Friends was necessary "to make our views more manifestly known... all present are convinced that Israel is the touchstone of Western civilisation".

DOCTORS SUPPORT SHTERN

The Liverpool 35s Group demonstrated outside the Sefton General Hospital to demand the release of Dr. Mikhail Shtern, the Soviet Jewish doctor who has been imprisoned on charges of "bribe-taking" and "swindling". About 45 Liverpool doctors and dentists joined the demonstration, where many signatures were collected. A petition protesting against the treatment of Dr. Shtern has been signed by more than 200 Merseyside doctors.

SWANSEA CCJ

At a Swansea executive meeting of the Council of Christians and Jews, tribute was paid to the chairman, Mr. Len Goss, who is to become national organising secretary at the head office in London. The Rev. Chancellor Garfield H. James, joint president, who is Vicar of Sketty, speaking of the great debt which was owed to the retiring chairman and founder-secretary, said that Swansea could be proud of its CCJ which had played an important role in maintaining the good relationships between Christians and Jews.

The Rev. L. Baker Short, Unitarian minister, was elected to succeed Mr. Goss, and the Rev. Joseph Freedman, emeritus minister of Swansea Hebrew Congregation, was elected joint president.

RACE RELATIONS ACT

Following representations made to the Attorney-General, Mr. Sam Silkin, QC, by the Board of Deputies, Section 6 of the Race Relations Act, 1965, dealing with incitement to racial hatred, may be amended and strengthened. The board's Jewish defence and group relations committee feels that the weakness of the section is its present requirement that "intent" to stir up racial hatred must be proven for any prosecution to succeed.

The Attorney-General's department is testing the strength of Section 6 and, as soon as these tests are completed, will arrange another meeting with a representative of the board and with the Home Secretary, Mr. Roy Jenkins, who is competent to amend the Act.

The decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions that no successful prosecution could be launched under the Race Relations Act in regard to the controversial advertisement placed in *The Times*, has been upheld by the Attorney-General.

The advertisement by the pro-Arab Committee for Justice in the Middle East suggesting that British Jews who gave financial aid to Israel were thereby being disloyal to Britain, was personally condemned by Mr. Silkin. He was, however, in agreement with the Director of Public Prosecutions that a prosecution would be unlikely to succeed.

O.B.E. FOR FORMER REFUGEE

The New Year Honours List referred to in our previous issue also includes an OBE for Mr. Keith Newlands, Director, Development Policy and Planning of British Steel Corporation (International) Ltd. Mr. Newlands was born in Nuernberg and came to this country in 1934. He is a member and supporter of the AJR of many years' standing. We extend our sincerest congratulations to him on this recognition of his services to this country.

INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE

For the first time London became the venue of the regular dialogues between the World Council of (non-Catholic) Churches and the International Jewish Committee for Inter-Religious Consultations. The committee, created to represent Jewry *vis-à-vis* the Christian world, consists of representatives of the World Jewish Congress, the Synagogue Council of America, the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith, and the Jewish Council for Inter-Religious Relations in Israel. Apart from the British, American and Israeli delegations, there were three Christian Arab representatives of the World Council from the Lebanon.

The meeting, as were the others held annually for the past six years, was strictly private, enabling both sides to select and discuss freely a variety of topics of mutual concern.

NATIONALITY OF NAZI VICTIMS FROM GERMANY

Decision of House of Lords on page 11

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Co-operative Education

Rabbi Douglas Charing, minister of the Leeds Sinai Synagogue, in a sermon called for Jewish education in Britain to serve all Jewish groups equally. It should be run on similar lines to that in America, where it was realised that sectarian teaching was useless and only by active co-operation could Jewish education progress. He hoped that sooner or later associations for this purpose would be formed in England. On a local scale, some centres could form an agency to include a resource bank to benefit centres and teachers from the latest books and audio-visual aids.

Fascism Study Grant

The Wiener Library and the Institute of Contemporary History is being enabled to undertake a study of the various aspects of fascist movements in Europe between the two world wars, by virtue of a two-year research grant of £25,000 from the Volkswagen Foundation. Professor Walter Laqueur, the institute's director, will lead an international team involved in the project.

Political Attitudes of British Jews

A study on "The political attitudes and behaviour of British Jews" by Dr. Ofira Seliktar, of Haifa University, has been published by the University of Strathclyde under the supervision of Professor Richard Rose. Dr. Seliktar concludes that most strictly Orthodox Jews vote Conservative and the more the inclination towards Left-wing Judaism, the greater the support for Left-wing politics. But since, in her estimation, the Orthodox groups account for only 15 per cent of the community, the moderates 35, the Progressives 15 and the "nominals" 35, in its party political preferences it would appear that Anglo-Jewry, although predominantly middle class, is politically inclined towards the Left. The political behaviour of Anglo-Jewry could be summarised as one of high political awareness and qualified Socialist allegiance, particularly striking as Jews are almost unrepresented in those social groups on which the support of the Labour Party is based.

Pro-Arab Israel Society

The Israel Society at the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University is under the control of a chairman, secretary and treasurer, all of whom are pro-Arab. Recently all three were instrumental in passing a motion through the Students' Union condemning Israel's right to exist and branding her as a Nazi State. This motion induced the pro-Israel Jewish students at SOAS to press for the formation of an Israel society to counter the propaganda. However, the sponsors were informed when they submitted their names for chairman, secretary and treasurer of the society, that they were too late. The three pro-Arab students were thus elected as officers of a so-called Israel Society.

Child Chazan

Joseph Lever of Prestwich at the age of 14 has been appointed chazan of the South Broughton Synagogue, also involving certain ministerial duties. He has been singing in public and conducting services at several Manchester synagogues since before his barmitzvah and, says the president of the South Broughton Synagogue, Joseph has "a voice to remember".

Aliya Increase

During 1974, the total number of Britons who emigrated to Israel through the World Zionist Organisation's aliya department was 832, as against 740 in 1973. This makes Britain the only western country to achieve a rise in emigration in 1974. The WZO's kibbutz department sent 2,000 Britons to kibbutzim in 1974 for up to six months on "work-and-learn" courses.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

U.S. ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Edward H. Levy (Chicago), 63, was appointed Attorney General of the United States, the first Jew ever chosen to head the American Department of Justice. He is the scion of an impressive line of American Reform rabbis, among them his great-grandfathers Rabbi Samuel Hirsch and Rabbi Dr. David Einhorn, his grandfather, Rabbi Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, and his father the late Rabbi Gerson B. Levi.

POPE'S CALL FOR DIALOGUE

Pope Paul VI granted an hour-long audience to members of the International Committee for Liaison between the Catholic Church and World Jewry. This private audience was the first given to leading world Jewish organisations since 1960, when the Pope received Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the president of the World Jewish Congress.

The Pope told the Jewish leaders of his "sincere wish that, in a manner appropriate to our age... a true dialogue may be established" between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jews.

Replying to the Pope on behalf of the international liaison committee Dr. Gerhard Riegner, the secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, expressed the hope that "the meeting marks the start of a new stage in our relations".

HEROIC WAR-TIME GREEKS

The Haifa Documentation Centre, after receiving details from Poland, has revealed that 400 young Greek Jews were sent to the gas chambers at Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944 because they refused to help the Nazi guards to kill other Jews.

A Polish historian working in the Auschwitz museum has ascertained from official Nazi documents found at the camp site, that 434 "young and healthy" Salonika Jews had arrived to work in the camp's crematoria section, of whom 400 were directed to the Sonderkommando. The task of the Sonderkommando was to persuade victims to enter the gas chambers willingly under the impression that they were going for a shower, and then dispose of the bodies in the crematoria. The 400 refused as one man to join the unit, and were gassed the next day.

Before the Second World War there were about 75,000 Jews living in Greece. Some 54,500 were deported to Auschwitz, where 41,776 were gassed, the rest surviving as slave workers and about 3,000 settling in Israel after the war.

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S.P.D. ON ISRAEL

At the Social Democratic Party's Foreign Policy Conference, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt reaffirmed the Party's belief that "Israel has a right to exist in full security and within recognised borders". He also said that whether the P.L.O. could, at a later stage, be included in international talks on Middle East problems "would depend, among other things, on its behaviour and its attitude to terrorism, and to the existence of Israel". "Likewise," the Chancellor said, "we support the legitimate rights of other states and peoples in the Middle East."

Former Chancellor Brandt, chairman of the S.P.D., declared: "After everything that has happened in my lifetime, we must insist on the right of the State of Israel to live within secure borders. In our opinion, common sense demands that a peaceful settlement be found that will pave the way for a co-operation benefiting all sides of this embattled region."

RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS IN FRANKFURT

Demonstration in front of Robert Kempner's Chambers

On January 20, the anniversary of the "Wannsee Conference" in 1942, when the "Final Solution" of the Jewish question, i.e. the mass extermination, was decided, two extreme right-wing organisations, "Deutsche Buergerinitiative" and the "Frankfurter Kreis Deutscher Soldaten" organised a riotous demonstration in front of the office of the lawyer Dr. Robert Kempner. The demonstrators shouted slogans like "Raus mit dem zionistischen Judenpack" and "Nieder mit der Demokratie". The Police have applied for criminal proceedings against the chairman of "Buergerinitiative", Rechtsanwalt Manfred Roeder (Bensheim).

Commenting on the demonstration, Dr. Kempner declared that he personally did not feel threatened. Yet, recalling his own experience as a high civil servant in the Weimar Republic, he said it had also been the method of the Nazis before 1933 to organise attacks by small groups against individuals. In those days the State had been "too soft" in dealing with such incidents.

AUSTRIAN NEO-NAZI STUDENTS

Protests by anti-fascist and Jewish organisations have finally caused action to be taken against the "Bund Nationaler Studenten", the student branch of the extreme Right-wing National Democratic Party. The Vienna police banned a rally planned by the BNS outside the university and confiscated a leaflet wherein the organisation claimed that there had been no Nazi death camps. The police also filed a request for the dissolution of the BNS.

Only the Maoist Marxist-Leninist Students' organisation of the Students' Union at Vienna University voted against a demand for the banning of the BNS and decided to boycott a rally called to protest against neo-fascist activities in Austria.

KREISKY ON MIDDLE EAST

During a State visit to Liechtenstein, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, stated that any effort to find a military solution to the problems of the Middle East could in the long run lead only to Israel's destruction. Sooner or later Israel would have to talk to the P.L.O., just as the French had had to talk to the F.L.N. in Algeria and the Americans to the North Vietnamese. Dr. Kreisky called for the setting up of a joint American-Soviet peace-keeping force in the Middle East.

JEWRY IN THE EAST

RUSSIANS IN LONDON

Dr. Victor Polsky, the 44-year-old physicist who was one of the most active in the fight by Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel, was tried in Moscow last October on a trumped-up charge of "dangerous driving". Fully expecting a three-year prison sentence, he came to trial at the height of the Soviet-American trade negotiations and, his case followed by the American newspapers, was fined only 100 roubles. A month later Dr. Polsky and a group of his relatives were suddenly granted the exit visas long denied them. Given five days to leave, Polsky delayed his departure for a month because he felt he could not let the friends who remained behind think he was running away. Every moment he and his relatives stayed they were at risk, but to run would have been a humiliation.

Dr. Polsky, on a visit to London from Israel to thank those who had appealed for his release, attended receptions by the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry and the Medical and Scientific Committee.

Miss Silva Zalmanson, recently released by the Russians and whose husband, Edward Kuznetsov, is now serving 15 years' imprisonment in a strict régime Soviet labour camp, also appeared in London before Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. She attended a reception to mark the publication of "Prison Diaries" by her husband.

TOURISTS EXPELLED

Eli Joseph, of Hendon, 19-year-old chairman of Betar, a Right-wing Zionist youth movement, and Gilead Freund of New York, also a Betar leader in the United States, visited Moscow on a package tour. They were the only members of their group to be searched, although the siddurim, tefillin and Hebrew books they had brought with them were not confiscated.

At the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs they presented a letter offering to serve the eight-year prison sentence imposed on Dr. Mikhail Shtern. Ignoring Mr. Joseph's protests that he was being forced to violate the Sabbath and his plea to see the British Consul, the two were then bundled into a car by the KGB, taken to a forest and threatened with imprisonment. After this they were conveyed to Moscow airport, arriving back at Luton in the early hours of Shabbat morning.

EMIGRATION

Only 1,250 Jews received permission to leave the Soviet Union in January, one month after the Soviet Government repudiated the United States Foreign Trade Bill linking the U.S. trade concessions with the easing of emigration from Communist countries. If this remains the level for the rest of 1975, it will represent a 25 per cent reduction in the total allowed in 1974.

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Hans Jaeger

PORTRAIT OF A STATESMAN

Terence Prittie's Brandt Biography

Books, too, have their destinies. When the English edition of Terence Prittie's Brandt biography, preceded by the German edition and enriched by essential supplements, was completed, it could not be foreseen that it would appear after Brandt's resignation. Yet nowadays events often run more quickly than the printing trade can manage. A last minute postscript takes account of the change.

Is the book an anticlimax under the circumstances? Certainly not for those who have a keen historical interest, nor for those who consider it possible that Brandt who, after all, is still the party chief, might have a come-back one day. Yet there are others who take the view that he who stumbles deserves to be held down or who, without any sense of proportion, classify him as a man with a "very Left-wing" past and blame him for having "weakened NATO" by making too many concessions to the East.

Some reviewers of the book have said that Terence Prittie was "too uncritical" of Brandt. Reproaches of this kind are often prompted by prejudice. If one wants the shadow to prevail, one is disappointed if one discovers too much light. The book shows that its author understood Brandt much better than many of his fellow countrymen. This is all the more significant as Prittie is by no means a Socialist; on the contrary, the joke has been made that he is on better terms with Socialists abroad than with the Labour Party of his own country. The list of those to whom he gives credit for their help and information confirms that he is not biased; it includes, for example, Hubertus von Loewenstein and Erich Mende. The author shows a tremendous knowledge of German affairs. He is careful and accurate—and he goes into details. Many political writers think they have to avoid details because they might bore readers. Prittie's Brandt biography shows that thoroughness makes a narrative particularly attractive, it recreates the atmosphere and explains the causality.

We are made aware of Brandt's cheerless youth and we share his feelings of loneliness. His character was shaped by circumstances and conditions. Prittie explains the reasons for Brandt's somewhat detached personality which did, however, not prevent him from giving much thought to his fellow men and from making sacrifices for their benefit. No wonder, that the author shows sympathy for him (without, however, being uncritical, as was insinuated). No wonder either that, on the other hand, Willy Brandt became very sensitive and was later easily disappointed.

We learn about Brandt's years of exile. This part is especially interesting because it contains much which is not known. Once Brandt illegally visited Berlin. Beyond the

biographical aspect the author has the skill of also presenting a piece of general contemporary history. We read about the anti-Nazi underground movement and its dwindling chances in the late 'thirties. There follows the chapter on the Spanish Civil War. It is well-known that Brandt's role in it has been misrepresented. He was in Spain for only four months and returned sadly disillusioned. He fell out with the sectarians and utopians but he disagreed even more with those who exploited the discipline required by the military situation and established a one-party rule.

The book is also full of political wisdom and piquant details. When Moscow attacked Finland, Brandt expressed the belief that the Nazis had encouraged the attack in order to bring the USSR into conflict with the Western powers. There followed the assault on Norway. The fact that Brandt was given a Norwegian uniform to save him has also been distorted by professional slanderers. There is a statement by Gauguin's grandson that Brandt never participated in fighting and never carried arms. Later Brandt went to Sweden. Prittie's comparison between the Norwegian and Swedish mentality is very illuminating.

After the war, Brandt was in Berlin with the Norwegian military mission. Again, and certainly not for the first time, he was confronted with a conflict. What so many fellow countrymen could not understand, was easy to understand for Terence Prittie. Brandt wanted to bring Germany back into the European comity. That was his decisive motive. He became the SPD representative in Berlin, as successor to Brost who founded the Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung in Essen. Again, he was faced with a very hard task as he had to cope with Kurt Schumacher, the party chairman. The chapter on the re-

lationship between these two very different characters is extremely interesting. When grilled about his political past—he had been a member of SAP, a small cadre party between Social Democrats and Communists—Brandt declared that he stood by the policy of the SPD but that he reserved the right to work out his own views on any new issues which might arise. He wanted to develop the SPD into a people's party and met the resistance of Franz Neumann, who wanted a worker's party and regarded himself as Schumacher's deputy. When Ernst Reuter returned from Turkey and, contrary to Schumacher, sought to win the confidence of the Allies, Schumacher and Neumann considered him as a rival. But Brandt was instantly drawn to Reuter. Prittie writes about these things as if he had witnessed them. He is familiar with all the details which are certainly not common knowledge among many German politicians of present times. The rivalries and quarrels may now appear ridiculous. But one must imagine the turbulent scene of the first post-war years.

These examples are only given to show the calibre of the book. With the later years, we enter a field which is more familiar: the blockade of Berlin, the frustration in Federal elections, Adenauer's hatred of Brandt and his futile attempts at humiliating him, the Berlin Wall, the Big Coalition, Brandt as Foreign Minister, then the coalition with the FDP and Brandt as Chancellor, the success of 1972, and, finally, the unexpected event of May 7, 1974.

In the postscript the author states that throughout his life Brandt had sought to trust people, in spite of the layer of reserve. All his life he had bottled up his feelings. Therefore, he was bound to be bitterly disappointed. Yet he lived up to standards of conduct which are not often to be found in the Western world of today. In conclusion, Prittie states that the time has not yet come to write the last line about Brandt's political career.

The book is not only a fascinating portrait of a great personality and his psychological make-up but also an outstanding picture of the historical background—the Nazi era, the war years and the post-war period. It is written with knowledge, insight, understanding and a warm heart.

NO "CARL VON OSSIETZKY UNIVERSITY"

Members of the academic staff and students of the newly established University of Oldenburg (Lower Saxony) proposed to name the new university after the pacifist Carl von Ossietzky, who was tortured to death by the Nazis in the nearby concentration camp of Papenburg-Esterwege. The responsible Minister rejected the proposal on grounds, reminiscent of the arguments used against the naming of the University of Dueseldorf after Heine. He stated that it would be a "lapse into the ritual of the day before yesterday" if a university were given a special name. Nevertheless, as shown in a picture recently published in the German magazine "Der Spiegel", a big sign with the words "Carl von Ossietzky Universitaet" has been fixed at the tower of the new seat of academic learning. F.H.

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* Terence Prittie: Willy Brandt: Portrait of a Statesman. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. 350 pp. £3.95.

H. W. Freyhan

TWO FELIX MENDELSSOHN BIOGRAPHIES

Since the 1939-45 war the literature on the Mendelssohn family has grown to a considerable extent, and the additions have included some first-rate contributions. Naturally the focus has been chiefly on the family's two outstanding members, Moses and Felix. Research on the philosopher has recently culminated in Alexander Altmann's fundamental study (reviewed in the May 1974 issue of *AJR Information*). Owing to its medium, the composer's work is more in the public limelight, but it is characteristic that in his particular case nearly all his biographers devote a good deal of space to his family background and do not lose sight of the fact that the grandfather of the most prominent Jewish-born nineteenth-century composer happened to be the pioneer of Jewish emancipation and of Jewry's entry into the European cultural scene.

Georg Marek's book on Felix (*Gentle Genius — The Story of Felix Mendelssohn*; Robert Hale & Co., London; £4.50) is no exception: its first three chapters deal with the situation of the Jews in the eighteenth century, with Moses Mendelssohn and his son Abraham, Felix's father.

The author (whose book on Richard Strauss was reviewed in *AJR Information* in November 1968) was born in Vienna and emigrated to the U.S.A., where he became a leading executive in the record industry. There is little doubt that his book has benefited from this dual background.

Although the volume includes some new documentation, its chief merit lies less in its factual information and the evaluations which it offers than in the manner of presentation: there is never any dullness, and every page makes fascinating reading.

Occasionally this readability is achieved at a price: the temptation to indulge in doubtful generalisations and oversimplifications has not always been resisted. To give but one example: in his description of German Jewry's Orthodoxy before the emancipation, Marek states that "these children of Zion suffered penalties of their own making. . . . What Salomon (sic!) had set down in the tenth century B.C. the eighteenth century A.D. still obeyed. . . . The kosher laws were strictly observed, though the prohibition against pork no longer made sense in Berlin". It cannot have escaped Marek's attention that the prohibition still makes sense to a large number of Jews in twentieth-century New York!

Such passages may be dismissed as journalistic quips; in general it must be conceded that, as witness his bibliography, Marek has consulted the relevant literature, including Graetz, Elbogen, Badt-Strauss, etc. Altmann's book on Moses Mendelssohn was not yet available to him.

Many of the familiar documents are included. It would have been preferable for Abraham's famous confirmation letter to Fanny to be reproduced in full. In dealing with Felix's refusal to drop the family name in favour of *Bartholdy*, as requested by Abraham, Marek comments: "It was surely not any inclination toward Judaism. He felt no such inclination, considering himself a Protestant". This is something of a half-truth. Felix's Protestant beliefs are not in doubt, but recent publications have produced ample evidence that he was particularly proud of his origin, e.g., his angry reaction to an anti-Jewish remark by his sister Rebekka, and his committed report on the debate on Jewish emancipation in the House of Commons.

The complete lack of Jewish self-hatred in Felix is a significant trait of his personality. Marek does mention this fact, but with somewhat insufficient emphasis.

In the matter of Zelter's succession at the Berlin *Singakademie* he takes a balanced view. Some antisemitic remarks were undoubtedly made at the Committee's meetings (the minutes were destroyed during the last war) but there were some understandable reasons for the choice of the mediocre Rungenhagen who had been Zelter's assistant for 18 years and was more likely to stay in Berlin than Felix who, in his application, had demanded free time for travel.

An equally balanced view is taken of the Mendelssohn-Wagner relationship which had by no means been hostile from the start. Marek concedes that Mendelssohn had little sympathy with Wagner's music (as with Berlioz'), and that this was probably quite evident in his performance of the *Tannhaeuser* Overture. Aversions of this kind exist frequently between great composers, and the ominous result, Wagner's later anti-semitic attacks, after Mendelssohn's death, need not have been the natural outcome of this artistic incompatibility.

Of Felix's relationship with his elder sister Fanny, and of his marriage, the book offers intelligent and appreciative evaluations. This

chapter includes some interesting new material: entries from Felix's and Cecile's honeymoon diary, pleasantly frank and unsophisticated, and also a few unpublished letters from their correspondence, the bulk of which was later destroyed, probably at their own wish.

Summing up the marriage, Marek says: "As far as the spying biographer can tell, he was never again attracted by another woman. Not seriously."

Unlike Fanny, Cecile was no musician. That she admired her husband's work is a safe assumption, but her tastes were not narrow, and it is curious to find Felix writing to Chopin, requesting "a few bars of music" composed specially for Cecile who was particularly fond of Chopin's art.

Felix's letter on his visit to Buckingham Palace has found its place in nearly every biography. Marek is in a position to add some new material—nothing less than excerpts from Queen Victoria's own diaries.

"June 16, 1842. . . . After dinner came Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, whose acquaintance I was so anxious to make. . . . He is short, dark and Jewish looking—delicate—with a fine intellectual forehead. . . . He is very pleasing and modest, and is greatly protected by the King of Prussia. He played first of all some of his *Lieder ohne Worte*. . . . and then, he asked us to give him a theme, upon which he could improvise. We gave him two, 'Rule Britannia', and the Austrian National Anthem. He began immediately, and really I have never heard anything so beautiful: the way in which he blended them both together and changed over from one to the other, was quite wonderful as well as the exquisite harmony and feeling he puts into the variations, and the powerful rich chords, and modulations, which reminded one of all his beautiful compositions. . . . We were all filled with the

Continued on page 7



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TWO FELIX MENDELSSOHN BIOGRAPHIES

Continued from page 6

greatest admiration. Poor Mendelssohn was quite exhausted, when he had done playing."

Two years later, after a similar occasion, the Queen wrote: "He is such an agreeable clever man and his countenance beams with intelligence and genius."

In November 1847, the Queen made this entry: "We were horrified, astounded and distressed to read in the papers of the death of Mendelssohn, the greatest musical genius since Mozart, and the most amiable man. He was quite worshipped by those who knew him intimately, and we have so much appreciated and admired his wonderfully beautiful compositions. We liked and esteemed the excellent man and looked up to and revered the wonderful genius, and the great mind, which I fear were too much for the frail, delicate body. With it all, he was so modest and simple. . . ."

And there are some further entries which testify to the Queen's genuine sense of loss.

Nobody is likely to accept Victoria's view of Mendelssohn as the greatest musical genius since Mozart — in preference to Beethoven and Schubert! — and, Mendelssohn himself would no doubt have disagreed with the Queen's evaluation. But the reaction against such claims tended to be equally exaggerated and unfounded (quite apart from racial prejudice).

In view of the frequent criticism of Mendelssohn's music as being merely smooth and emotionally superficial, it is not without interest to note his own comments on the soprano soloist in the *Elijah* premiere: "It was all so pretty, so pleasing, so elegant, at the same time so flat, so heartless, so unintelligent, so soulless".

Marek does not attempt a detailed discussion of the works; in general, he limits himself to statements of his personal views. These are reasonably balanced, as is his summing up: "To put it plainly, he knew how to make us feel good. If he did not transport us into seventh heaven nor down into the First Circle, he did offer us a place in the serene Utopia".

The volume is handsomely produced, and the generous illustrations include a good number of Mendelssohn's own drawings and sketches.

Marek's book figures among the sources consulted by an even more recent biographer of the composer, Wilfrid Blunt (*On Wings of Song*; a Biography of Felix Mendelssohn, Hamilton, London, 1974; £5.50).

The author, who is the curator of the Watts Gallery in Compton, Surrey, has written on a wide range of subjects of which music is but one. His Mendelssohn volume presents no new research but is quite up to date, thanks to the discretionary use of recent standard works, such as Werner and Radcliffe. Like most Mendelssohn biographers,

he enlivens his narrative by ample quotations from documents and letters, and like Marek, he includes entries from Queen Victoria's diaries.

His comments on the music are brief and generally adequate, except perhaps in the case of *Elijah*, where he tends to lean on Shaw's rather biased anti-Victorian views. He does, however, concede that the work is widely regarded as the finest oratorio of the nineteenth century.

After pointing out that the famous Christmas hymn *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* is an adaption of a chorus from Mendelssohn's *Festgesang* in honour of Johannes Gutenberg, he remarks: "One cannot help wondering whether those . . . clergymen who, according to newspaper reports, refuse to allow Mendelssohn's *Wedding March* in their churches on the grounds that it is secular or even pagan music, are aware of the origin of what is possibly the most popular tune in the English hymnal".

The concluding chapter exposes with all frankness Wagner's antisemitic attacks, including the most monstrous, his whole-hearted approval of the first Russian pogroms (omitted, as Blunt tells us, from the English edition of Wagner's writings!), and this is followed up by a report on the removal and destruction of the Leipzig Mendelssohn monument at the time of Sir Thomas Beecham's visit (1936); Blunt quotes here from J. Wulf's *Music in the Third Reich* and refers to its "horrifying" evidence of the Nazi attitude.

The book is lavishly illustrated (the colour plates enhance Mendelssohn's own paintings) and should be a welcome addition to the library of anyone not indifferent to Mendelssohn's music and personality.

MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY PRIZE 1975

The winners of this year's Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Prize were the 27-year-old pianist Wolfgang Bloser, student at the Music Conservatory in Stuttgart, and the cellist Georg Faust (Conservatory Cologne). The Prize was endowed by the Berlin Conservatory in 1874 but discontinued in 1933. In 1963 the Foundation "Preussischer Kulturbesitz" recreated the prize; it carries a monetary award of DM 5,000, the highest award for music students in Germany. E.G.L.

MEMORIAL IN DUISBURG

A memorial to the perished Jewish citizens of Duisburg was unveiled recently. It has been erected near the site of the destroyed synagogue. The speakers at the ceremony, which was attended by Government and municipal officials included the Israeli Ambassador to West Germany, Mr. Yochanan Meroz, and the former Minister of Justice of North-rhine-Westphalia, Dr. Josef Neuberger.

DIE OST-BERLINER JUEDISCHE GEMEINDE

Unser Mitglied, Herr K. Stein (London) erhielt das folgende Schreiben von Dr. Peter Kirchner, dem Vorsitzenden der Juedischen Gemeinde von Gross-Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 28, 104 Berlin (East Germany):

"Wir beabsichtigen einen Bild-Text-Band über die 300 jährige Geschichte der Berliner Gemeinde herauszugeben und benötigen dafür Materialien, seien es nun Fotos oder Druckerzeugnisse, Dokumente oder auch private Erlebnisberichte. Dabei sollten diese Unterlagen besonders den Zeitraum zwischen 1890 und 1945 umfassen. Den Abschluss des Bandes soll dann eine Selbstdarstellung der heutigen Gemeinde in unserem Teile Berlins ausmachen.

"Bezüglich der Friedhöfe hat sich der Magistrat von Gross-Berlin jetzt bereiterklärt, uns in einem wesentlich grösseren Umfang als bisher zu unterstützen und dies nicht nur durch die Bereitstellung entsprechender finanzieller Mittel, sondern durch die Beauftragung entsprechender gärtnerischer Betriebe. In diesem Jahr sind u.a. die Wiederherstellung des einst sehr schönen Ehrenmales für die im I. Weltkrieg gefallenen jüdischen Soldaten sowie der Sonderfelder vorgesehen, auf denen die nach der Kristallnacht ermordeten jüdischen Männer, deren Asche den Familienangehörigen noch zugeschickt wurde, beigesetzt sind. In der Fortsetzung dieser Arbeiten sollen dann in den kommenden Jahren systematisch alle Abteilungen in den pflegerischen Aufgabenkreis einbezogen werden.

"Die Synagoge in der Oranienburger Strasse wurde durch Kriegseinwirkungen so stark zerstört, dass man sich schon 1953 entschloss, wegen der Einsturzgefahr den Innenraum zu sprengen. Der Verfall hat natürlich in den nachfolgenden Jahren zugenommen und diese Ruine ist für uns ein ständiger Gefahrenherd. Da bei der Kleinheit unserer Gemeinde der Wiederaufbau nicht diskutiert werden kann, andererseits eine Nutzung in anderer Art nicht möglich wäre, wird es sich wahrscheinlich nicht vermeiden lassen, hier eine weitestgehende Abtragung der einsturzfähigsten Anteile dieser Ruine zu erwägen, und nur einen, die frühere Schönheit vielleicht ahnenlassenden Rest als Denkmal stehenzulassen."

NEWS FROM WEST BERLIN

The dancer, Valeska Gert, recently celebrated her 75th birthday. Forced to emigrate in 1933, she returned to Germany in 1949 and gave her first post-war performance in Berlin, her city of birth, in the Renaissance Theater.

The recently published, illustrated book "Berlin 1974—Das Jahr im Ruckspiegel" (Ullstein) reports about a plan to re-erect the famous Ephraim-Palais on the Muehlendamm (now East Berlin) which was demolished by the Nazis. Parts of the historically interesting building were deposited at a site which is now situated in West Berlin, and it is thus possible to reconstruct the house. The director of Berlin Museum, Professor Dr. Irmgard Wirth, suggests to re-erect it near the Museum in the Lindenstrasse and use it for the collections of Judaica and of the department of the history of theatre.

The book also mentions the scheme by which former Berlin Jews have been given the opportunity of visiting their city of birth as guests of the Senate. So far, 4,000 persons have benefited from the scheme, and the waiting list comprises a further 15,000. E.G.L.

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NEWS ABOUT ISRAEL

WARNING AGAINST PRE-EMPTIVE WAR

Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the World Jewish Congress governing council, sent a letter to the New York Times congratulating the newspaper on two editorials dealing with the situation in the Middle East and warning against a pre-emptive war by Israel. This warning, wrote Dr. Prinz, "should not merely come from important newspapers and powerful governments but, most importantly, from the organised Jewish community of the United States, which has established an intimate relationship of partnership with Israel and which has provided substantial material support for Israel". Neither victory nor defeat would guarantee the existence of Israel itself, he said, and this was the stake. An Israeli victory would be even more catastrophic than a defeat, inviting the intervention of the Soviet Union on the side of the Arab States, again humiliating the Arabs and stirring up more fervent nationalism among them. A defeat suffered by Israel would no doubt be the end of the State "and thus, probably, the end of Jewish existence in the world".

Quoted apparently in part in the Israeli press, the letter led to strong criticism of Dr. Prinz and a sharp cable to him by the chairman of the W.J.C.'s Israeli section, Mr. Itzhak Korn. Mr. Korn said that Dr. Prinz should not have written the letter because of his central position in the W.J.C. Dr. Prinz replied that if wished he would no longer occupy such a position. He did not stand for re-election, and Mr. Philip Klutznick succeeded him.

Dr. Prinz is a founder and leader of "Breira", a new organisation dedicated to the centrality of Israel in diaspora Jewish life, but rejecting Israeli hegemony over day-to-day affairs in the diaspora.

EMIGRATION

Government statistics indicate that about 18,000 Israelis left the country in 1974. In 1973, 54,890 immigrants settled in Israel. Mr. Pinhas Sapir, the Jewish Agency's chairman, has expressed concern at the smaller number of immigrants who arrived last year and the greater number of Israelis who emigrated during 1974. In the 25 years until 1973, some 200,000 Israelis were estimated to have left for overseas—an average of about 8,000 a year. A total of 17,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel during 1974, representing an almost 50 per cent drop from the record 33,400 who came in 1973.

Mr Sapir told the Agency's board that, for a number of months towards the end of last year, 37 per cent of Soviet Jewish emigrants arriving in Vienna had not continued to Israel. This "drop-out" rate was nearly twice as high as the overall average for the year of 20 per cent. He pointed out, however, that many Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate had never had any intention of going to Israel.

FORMER SOVIET POLITICIAN'S WIDOW

Arrival of Maria Joffe

Maria Mikailovna Joffe, the widow of Adolf Joffe, Commissar of Foreign Affairs after the Communist Revolution in 1917, arrived in Israel as a new immigrant. She is in her 80s. Adolf Joffe led the Soviet peace delegation to the Brest-Litovsk Peace Conference between Germany and Russia and later became Soviet Ambassador to Berlin. He committed suicide in 1928 when his close friend Trotzky was expelled from the Communist Party. Maria Joffe had been in a forced labour camp for 28 years. She told reporters that after her husband's death she was charged with "revisionism".

GOLDMANN AND DOUBLE LOYALTIES

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, opened the organisation's sixth plenary assembly, the first ever to be held in Jerusalem.

In his speech Dr. Goldmann emphasised that although every Jew was entitled to express his views about Israel's policies, in the final conclusion it was his duty to stand by Israel, even if not in accord with its policies. He highlighted "two major problems created by the existence of a sovereign Jewish State": "what is called double loyalty" and "the relationship between Israel and the diaspora". It was unrealistic to deny the potential existence of the issue of double loyalty. Israel could not survive or ensure the survival of the Jewish people unless the Jewish people "in its totality lives and acts in full solidarity with Israel". In times of crisis this problem of double loyalty was bound to crop up.

As far as the relationship between Israel and the diaspora was concerned, Dr. Goldmann felt that it should be based on three principles: the unity of the whole people and the equality of all parts of it; recognition by the diaspora of the sovereignty of Israel, leaving to it the right and privilege to reach binding decisions on its policies; recognition by Israel of the diaspora's autonomy.

Dr. Goldmann urged reconsideration and, if possible, improvement of relations with the Communist block and the Third World because, "next to the survival of Israel, the future of the three million or more Jews living in the Communist world is the major issue we have to solve".

He was re-elected as president with an overwhelming majority. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Goldmann said: "I am in fairly good health, though I have no contract with the Almighty, of course. I would have stepped down if I had seen a successor emerging. Perhaps it is my fault. I have done very little to groom a successor. Still, I do not intend to stay the full course. Perhaps I will serve for a couple of years or so."

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CATHOLICS AND JEWS

The Vatican Speaks

"A turning point in the relations between the Jews and the Catholics", this was said by responsible Catholics of the Declaration on the Church and the Jewish people, *Nostra Aetate*, as adopted by Vatican II in 1965. And now this Declaration has, if anything, been strengthened by the new statement of the Vatican in January 1975.

After various contacts between authorities of the Roman Curia and exponents of important Jewish organisations, an official meeting was held in Rome in December 1970. In the course of this meeting it was decided to set up an international liaison committee between the Catholic Church and representative bodies of Judaism. On the Jewish side the members of this committee were named or approved by the International Jewish Committee for Inter-Religious Consultations. On the Catholic side, they were named by the Pope. Since its establishment, the International Liaison Committee has held three annual sessions, in Paris, Marseille and Antwerp. It was principally from this committee that the suggestion came to create a "Commission for Relations with Judaism" in the Vatican. As a distinct organism but joined to the Secretariat for Christian Unity, it was established by the Pope to promote and foster relations of a *religious nature* between Jews and Catholics.

However much we may regret it that the State of Israel is not mentioned in any of these statements, it is undoubtedly true that

within the last decade the Catholic Church has made commendable efforts towards a reconciliation with Judaism, endeavouring to cleanse its not untarnished record in this respect. I submit that these efforts would have loomed very largely in the minds of the Jews and in pronouncements of official Jewish bodies if, very understandably, the existence of the State of Israel had not loomed even larger on the list of priorities of official and unofficial Judaism.

Yet, what *has* happened? To make this crystal clear I should like to quote a few sentences taken at random from the "Guidelines and Suggestions for Implementing the Conciliar Declaration *Nostra Aetate*": It is the same god inspirer and author of the books of both Testaments; Jesus was born of the Jewish people, as were his Apostles and a large number of his first disciples; in the spirit of the prophets, Jews and Christians will willingly work together, seeking social justice and peace at every level—local, national, and international; the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) has pointed out the path to follow in promoting deep fellowship between Jews and Christians.

So far the "Guidelines". The document is signed by Cardinal Willebrands, president of the "Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews". It may certainly seem odd that the Commission is joined to the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity, but this is a merely administrative arrangement, I presume.

It is suggested in the "Guidelines" that the bishops should take steps to reform the teaching and preaching of the local priests. Catholics, it is emphasised, must maintain the strictest respect for religious liberty and should regard with particular sensitivity the difficulties which arise for Jews when faced with the "mystery of the incarnate word". Any sermon on liturgical texts should be carefully thought out so as not to distort their meaning, especially if they seem to show the Jewish people in an unfavourable light. Information about both the Jewish background of Christianity and the Jewish tradition after the coming of Christ should be included in Christian education. The spiritual bonds and historical links binding the Church to Judaism condemn all forms of antisemitism and discrimination.

I could go on at length quoting from the "Guidelines".

Some Jews might read all this with a wry smile. Yet, I think, it would be wrong to mistake the importance of this Vatican document. The Roman Catholic Church now speaks of "our brothers the Jews".

Is it perhaps a practical commentary to what we quoted above that in 1965, during the last session of Vatican II, I was invited to the *Collegio Inglese* in Rome to lunch with the bishops of England and Wales? I also visited the Secretariat for Christian Unity to learn more about the impending vote on the resolution absolving the Jews from the crime of "deicide". I talked to an American priest, Father Stransky. I said to him: "I welcome the efforts of the Church to put its relationship with the Jews on a new basis. Don't you think that the Jews all but ignore these efforts and hardly react to them?" Father Stransky replied: "Whatever the Jews do or don't do, the Church is doing its duty by doing what is just".

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IN MEMORIAM

MR. HANS P. JUDA

Mr. Hans Peter Juda, C.B.E., who died on February 3 at the age of 70, was the founder (in 1935) and then editor and publisher of the British export magazine "The Ambassador" until 1964. He became a director of Thomson Publications in that year. Born in Trier, he studied economics, law and sociology and in 1927, when in his early 20s, he was appointed Financial Editor of the "Berliner Tageblatt". In 1931, he married Elsbeth, the daughter of Dr. Julius Goldstein, professor of philosophy in Darmstadt and founder of the German-Jewish periodical "Der Morgen". They came to England in 1933. Juda (writes The Times in its obituary) became passionately committed to the country of his adoption and devoted his career to the fostering of British exports, linking industrial export with sponsoring visits which made British artists and arts known abroad. He gave considerable help to young artists and devoted the proceeds from the sale of his own collection of modern works to the creation of a fund to enable artists to travel and widen their experience. He was a governor and, from 1965 to 1973, chairman of the Central School of Art and Design and received honours from the Royal Society of Arts and other institutions. In 1955 he was appointed O.B.E. and in 1970 advanced to C.B.E.

Hans Juda's success in this country was coupled with deep feelings of loyalty to his community of origin. He had many personal friends among the former refugees and, throughout the time, was an interested and helpful member of the AJR. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his widow.

MASCHA KALEKO

Mascha Kaleko, who recently died, became first known in the early 'thirties, when her verses appeared in the "Vossische Zeitung" and the "Berliner Tageblatt". Later, collections of her poems were published in two volumes "Das Lyrische Stenogrammheft" and "Kleines Lesebuch fuer Grosse". Her artistic gifts as the writer of "Grosstadtlyrik" made her widely known and were also recognised by authors like Thomas Mann and Alfred Polgar. Hermann Hesse once wrote about her: "This genre of small poems, descended directly from Heine, has now, after the elimination of the Jews, entirely disappeared in Germany." After the war, she published a volume "Verse fuer Zeitgenossen" (1945), a "Versbuch fuer verspielte Kinder saemtlicher Jahrgaenge" (1961) and "Verse in Dur und Moll" (1967).

Mascha Kaleko was born in Poland and brought up in Berlin, where she attended the Jewish "Mittelschule". Until 1934 she had a position as secretary at the headquarters of the Berlin Jewish community. Together with her husband, the composer and synagogue choir conductor, Chemjo Vinaver (Warsaw 1895-Jerusalem 1973) she emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1939 and from there, in the 'sixties, to Israel. In 1973, she was elected a member of the PEN centre of the German Federal Republic.

The opening poem of her "Verse fuer Zeitgenossen", called "Einem kleinen Emigranten", is dedicated to her son, Steven Vinaver, who later became a successful producer in the U.S.A. His death in 1968 at the early age of 32 was a very severe blow for Mascha and her husband.

HANS HESS

Mr. Hans Hess, O.B.E., Reader in the History and Theory of Art at Sussex University since 1967, recently died in his 67th year. He was educated in the Odenwald-Schule and in Wickersdorf and, after having attended several study courses at the Sorbonne and in Geneva, joined his family's shoemaking business in Erfurt. His father was one of the chief collectors of modern art and in this way, Hans Hess got into close contact with leading pre-1933 artists in Germany. He came to this country as a refugee in 1935, where he was also actively associated with the work of the German Kulturbund. In 1947, he was appointed director of the City Art Gallery of York and also became the chief director of the York Festival, which was started in 1951 with the then little-known York Mystery Plays as its focus. His works include the standard monograph on Lyonel Feininger (1959) and a critical study of George Grosz (1974) which is due to be published shortly.

ABY WARBURG REMEMBERED

At the 14th conference of German Art Historians in Hamburg, Staatsrat Dr. Heinz Liebrecht, in his welcoming address, paid special tribute to the memory of Aby Warburg. His creation, the Warburg Institute, was not only a typical manifestation of Hamburg and its way of life but had also made history in the history of art beyond the city. Warburg's name was inseparably linked with a specific new method of approach, Dr. Liebrecht said.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthday

The AJR CLUB extends its warmest wishes to Mrs. E. Israit on her 70th birthday on February 13; Mrs. F. Menashe on her 80th birthday on February 14; and Mrs. Martha Lewis on her 75th birthday on March 19.

Wiener.—Mrs. Hedwig Wiener of 123, The Vale, London, N.W.11. celebrated her 90th birthday on February 22. Her family and friends wish her many more happy years.

Ruby Wedding

Guttfeld.—Mrs. M. H. and Mr. Frank Guttfeld of 103, High St., Arlesey, Beds., will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on March 27.

Golden Wedding

Wiener. — Jacques and Ellen Wiener (née Silberstein) of Penrhyn Lodge, 14, St. Mark's Hill, Surbiton, Surrey, will celebrate their Golden Wedding on March 1.

Deaths

Conway.—Mr. John Conway of 676, Finchley Road, London, N.W.11. passed away in Majorca, Spain on January 8 at the age of 74. Sadly missed by his wife Betty, sister, niece and all his many friends.

Kingston.—Rita Kingston of 2/167, Westend Lane, London, N.W.6, passed away on January 20, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by her husband, relatives and many friends.

Merz.—Mrs. Hermina Merz of Kinloch, 21 Packman Lane, Kirkella, Hull, died on February 13. Deeply mourned by her husband, Victor, and all her family and friends.

Schlesinger.—Ernst Schlesinger of 20, Barn Hill, Wembley Park, Middx. passed away peacefully on January 21, at the age of 77. Deeply mourned by his wife and friends.

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Missing Persons

Personal Enquiries

Bielitz (Polish-Silesia).—Witnesses wanted in connection with a compensation claim from this town. Please contact: Mr. A. Matzner, 11 Station Road, Belmont, near Sutton, Surrey.

AJR Enquiries

Herzfelder.—Dr. E. Herzfelder, last known address 6, Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon Street, London, EC4 0BL.

Kaldenbach.—Dr. G. Kaldenbach, last known address: 3, Burford Drive, Manchester, 16.

NATIONALITY OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI GERMANY

Decision in the "Oppenheimer v. Cattermole" Case

The case of Oppenheimer v. Cattermole (H.M. Inspector of Taxes) has engaged the English courts for a long time. It has now been finally decided by the House of Lords against the taxpayer by rejecting his claim to have retained German nationality.

It must be stated at once that the case does not apply to the compensation annuities (Entschadigungsrenten) paid under the German Federal Compensation Law (BEG) to Nazi victims. These annuities are, and remain, entirely exempt from any tax, irrespective of the nationality of the recipient.

Mr. Oppenheimer, a German-Jewish teacher, emigrated to England in 1939 due to Nazi persecution. In 1948, he became naturalised as a British subject. He was granted a German public service pension from 1953 onwards, under the German Federal Republic's law providing indemnification in respect of National Socialist Injustice for Members of the Public Service living abroad. (BW GoED.)

Article IX (2) of the Anglo-German Double Taxation Convention lays down that public service pensions paid by the Federal Republic of Germany to residents of the U.K. shall be exempt from United Kingdom tax if the recipient holds German or dual (British and German) nationality.

A Nazi decree of 1941 deprived all German Jews then resident abroad of their German nationality (and, incidentally, also of their assets left in Germany). It was argued on behalf of Mr Oppenheimer that he had never lost German nationality, since the odious Nazi decree of 1941 could not be recognised as

having ever had legal validity. A majority of the Lords accepted this view of the invalidity of the 1941 decree.

The Lords also considered the German Nationality Law of 1913 under which a German national who is neither domiciled nor resident in Germany, loses his German nationality on acquiring a foreign one, but they did not express a definite view on the question whether Mr Oppenheimer had lost his German nationality on acquiring the British one in 1948.

The House of Lords held, however, that Mr Oppenheimer had lost German nationality by virtue of Article 116 (2) of the German Basic Law (Grundgesetz). This Article provides that former German citizens deprived of their German nationality for racial, political or religious reasons between January 1933 and May 1945 are to be reinstated as German nationals on application (unless they have permanently returned to Germany—in which case they are not to be considered as expatriated if they have not expressed a wish to the contrary). The House of Lords accepted the view taken by the German Federal Constitutional Court in a decision of 1968 on the effect of Article 116 (2):

"For persecutees who have not acquired a foreign nationality the effect of Article 116 (2) is that notwithstanding the fact that they did not lose their German nationality by expatriation [the decree of 1941] the German State does not treat them as German unless they assert their German nationality by taking up residence or making an application."

The Lords said that the apparent oddity of this decision disappeared if one bore in mind the conflicting considerations which the framers of the Basic Law tried to reconcile. They were unwilling to admit that the 1941 decree had ever been part of the German law but did not wish to thrust German nationality on people who did not want it. Mr Oppenheimer, by not applying for German nationality had, therefore, lost it, if not under the Law of 1913 in 1948 on British nationalisation, then in 1949 on enactment of the German Basic Law.

This judgement in the Oppenheimer case has general application and clarifies the nationality status of the Nazi persecutees from Germany under British law. It is not confined to the narrow sphere of the Double Taxation Convention. The decision makes common sense in not thrusting German nationality on those who do not want it and are content to live in this country as British citizens, with the full rights and duties such citizenship confers on them. It does no injustice to those who wish to hold German nationality; they can—and could since 1949—do so by signing the simple application form. The decision of the highest British Court gives thus effect to the intentions of the German lawmakers and will, we believe, be welcomed by the majority of the Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany living in this country.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE MARTYRS Meeting on April 6

This year's meeting to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Martyrs of Nazism will be held on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m., in the New London Theatre, Parker Street, Drury Lane, London, W.C.2. Details will be announced in the next issue. As in the past, the AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations.

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Letters to the Editor

GERMAN JEWRY UNDER DURESS

Sir,—For reasons which I can't imagine H. G. Reissner used the review of S. Adler-Rudel's book (your December, 1974 issue) for an attack against the Ph.D. thesis which I wrote in Erlangen 15 years ago. He did so in a letter he wrote at that time to my "Doktorvater", his friend Professor H. J. Schoeps. About questions of tact and taste I do not wish to engage in public polemics, but I must point out that Reissner simply mis-read and therefore mis-interpreted my dissertation. Had it ever appeared in print, I simply could suggest to the AJR Information readers, that they should read the book itself. Since it was only mimeographed and very few copies have reached public libraries (I do hope the Wiener Library possesses one), I am compelled to state that Reissner painted "a picture of utter confusion".

This can be proved easily: Chapter III is devoted to the activities and achievements of Reichsvertretung and Reichsvereinigung. Therein I quoted as the first and, I believe, only one the full text of statements by the leading bodies and personalities of those organisations. Chapter IV describes the reactions of Jews to the happenings, and I quoted almost exclusively from the C. V. Zeitung and the Jüdische Rundschau and from the books "Wir Juden" by the Zionist Rabbi Joachim Prinz and Schoeps's "Wir deutschen Juden" (both 1934). Thus, I gave a balanced picture of the plurality of opinions as it then still existed. Chapter VI is devoted to the intellectual and cultural activities of German Jews under Hitler (a subject Herbert Freeden and Ernst Simon dwelled on more lengthily much later). The concluding chapters dealt with Emigration and the Post-war situation. If Reissner claimed that I presented "only a picture of utter confusion and helplessness", he misrepresented facts. Against such unscientific attitude I must raise my voice.

(Dr. phil.) HANS LAMM.

8 München 22,
Emil-Riedel-Strasse 8.

"THE LAST OF THE RATHENAU ASSASSINS"

Sir,—The author of the article on "The Last of the Rathenau Assassins" in your February issue errs in a material respect. Walther Rathenau was assassinated not by three men, but by two, Erwin Kern, who fired at him from a sub-machine gun, and Hermann Fischer, who threw a hand-grenade into his car. Ernst Werner Techow, the subject of the article, had been the driver of the car from which they committed their crime. The court which in due course dealt with it, the highest in the land, treated him as an accessory ("Gehilfe") and sentenced him to 15 years' penal servitude, not for murder, but for aiding and abetting ("Beihilfe zum Mord").

H. F. ASHBROOK

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THE STEFAN GEORGE KREIS

Sir,—As I receive "AJR Information" by surface mail, I only learned now that Professor Dr. Vera Lachmann, in a letter to the editor ("AJR Information", December, 1974), took exception to my statement that Margarete Susman "never felt quite at home" in the Stefan George circle, "because she had already sensed an undercurrent of political mysticism which later ran into the sewage of National Socialism".

I should like to remind the learned letter writer who called my statement "misleading, untrue, offensive" of the following facts: two members of the George circle, the poet Alfred Schuler and the philosopher Ludwig Klages, were distinct antisemites who contributed to the growth of the Nazi ideology. Schuler personally influenced Adolf Hitler in the 1920s.

Two other non-Jewish members of the George circle were the historian Friedrich Wolters whose book on Stefan George has an antisemitic tinge, and the poet and literary historian Ernst Bertram who, at least for some time, sympathised with National Socialism.

I should like to mention that my point of view is confirmed by Robert Weltch (cf. Introduction to the Leo Baeck Institute Year Book VIII, 1963, pp. xx-xxii).

FRITZ FRIEDLANDER, Ph.D.
Melbourne, Australia.

HEINE MUSEUM IN DUESSELDORF

Sir,—Düsseldorf's new "Heine Museum" is not, as reported in the February issue of "AJR Information," situated in "the Bolkerstrasse, the street where Heine was born in 1797". It is situated in the Bilker Strasse, a street which has no connection whatsoever with Heine and is quite a distance away from the place where Heine was born and for which he prophesied "green-veiled English ladies" would search when they visited Düsseldorf.

On the other hand, it must be conceded that the new "Heine Museum" is really a model of generosity and tolerance. Apart from the items mentioned in your report, it houses a "Rhenish Literary Archive" containing the literary relics of "culturally important personalities". This collection also includes works by Hanns Heinz Ewers, the author of "Horst Wessel, ein deutsches Schicksal", and by Wilhelm Schaefer, who was made president of the Deutsche Dichterkademie in May, 1933, a day or two before Heine's works were burned by the Nazis in all the major cities of Germany.

F. HELLENDALL, LL.B., Dr. Jur.
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THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

Basle. The Basle Theatre management, in their quest for originality, have sprung a minor sensation by performing "The Last Days of Mankind" in the foyer and staircase of their new house which is still under construction. The work, which has been called the world's first documentary drama, is staged to honour its author, Karl Kraus, on the occasion of the centenary of his birth last year. The producer Hans Hollmann is warmly praised by the critics, and great credit is given to Michael Rittermann in the part of the "grumbler" ("Der Nörgler"). For Rittermann, who has been acting in Basle for the past seven years, it means the climax of his career, and a far cry from his "Blue Danube" days.

Cologne. The "Theater am Dom" produced the musical "Mrs. Warren's Profession" (based on Bernard Shaw's play), with music by Charly Kalman, son of the "Mariza" composer.

Berlin. Two prominent members of the Schillertheater appear in this season's birthday list. Ernst Schröder, character actor and director, Salzburg's "Jedermann" from 1969 to 1972, is 60 years old; Bernhard Minetti, born in Kiel, still very active stage and film star, was 70 in January. Grete Mosheim, who also celebrated her 70th birthday, was a Reinhardt discovery and needs no introduction to anyone who was familiar with the German stage in the 'twenties and 'thirties. She spent the Hitler years in the United States, but returned after the war, and ranks among the most fascinating actresses of our age.

Vienna. Oskar Werner, who acquired his international reputation by frequent appearances in films all over the world ("Jules et Jim", "The Spy who came in from the Cold"), gave a recital evening in the Vienna Musikverein. The reviews call his interpretations of Schiller poems "unique and supreme". Actress Hilde Wagener celebrated her 50-year "Burg" Jubilee by playing in Gerhart Hauptmann's rarely performed "Der rote Hahn". Lotte Lang, member of the "Josefstadt", is 75 years old.

Obituary. The death at 77 of Robert Neumann, writer, essayist, satirist ("Mit fremden Federn") is widely regretted. Neumann was a controversial intellectual figure, at home in many parts of the world, including England. He had recently settled in the Tessin and died in Munich. Hans Olden, actor of stage and film, died in Vienna at the age of 82.

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