

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weltsch

## JEWISH MIGRATION THROUGHOUT THE AGES

## From Passover Onwards

Jewish History is to a great extent a story of migrations. At the beginning—not of human life generally, but of a particular national life, of a clearly contoured human community—there stands in the popular imagination the great event of the Exodus from Egyptian slavery, to whose memory the Festival of Passover is dedicated. True, there were migrations of our remote ancestors also before that. Somehow, the tribes later designated as Jews must have arrived in Pharaoh's country; the Bible says they came, driven by hunger, from the Eastern borderland to the rich and fertile plain of the Nile, the great river, in Hebrew simply called "the stream". This is told in one of the most attractive and human stories of World Literature, that of Joseph and his Brothers, in its original simplicity more impressive and moving than all verbose variations later built on it. Like almost everything written in the Bible, it provokes comments and explanations in order to produce a coherent historically integrated story, and in fact plenty of supplements and speculations have been added by innumerable—mostly unknown—authors.

As is often said of the work of historians, such writers are inevitably influenced by their own views and contemporary experience and follow the system of thought of their own time. So when the Haggadah says that each generation should relate the story as though it itself had been led out of Egypt, it is only natural that we link it with great migrations of our own time.

Exodus has been unique in that it had a clear geographical destination and a grand design aiming at an ideal form of life; on the other hand, it shows the eternal human behaviour in trying to shirk this command and to indulge in sensual enticement of every kind: a textbook of mass psychology, the archetype of the permanent struggle between ethical ideals and the materialistic and egoistic impulses of everyday life. This is not the remote past, it is with us ever-present, the story of the Golden Calf, revived for our generation by Arnold Schönberg, it is fact and symbol, revolt against the Invisible. For belief in the Invisible the founder of the nation had tried to impose; but he had to despair because it is against the nature of primitive down-to-earth man: and the magic formula to ban the disintegration has been missing even to the greatest prophet. According to Jewish interpretation man is created with two innate impulses, the good one and the evil one, which are in constant conflict with each other. This is the ultimate leitmotif of the drama of History. It perhaps also explains the tragic fact that all the idealistic movements to alter the conditions of human society lead to results

most dissimilar to what the original purpose had been. We have experienced this with the "isms" of our time when paradoxically the great idea of Man's freedom has been said to be achieved—by hundreds of tanks and cruel oppression.

## The Biblical Story

In historical terms, the Exodus cannot have been the first migration. The nation's History is said to have started in mythical times with the call to Abram, the famous "Lech lechah": "Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee"—as translated in the so-called authorized Version of 1611. In the modern language of "Good News Bible, Today's English Version" (Collins/Fontana, London 1976) the passage runs: "Leave your native land, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a country that I am going to show you". We know very little about Abram's antecedents and about the country from which he emigrated with his nephew Lot and their families. Modern archaeology puts many traditions in doubt; on the ensuing controversies only experts may judge. A recent sensational television series has reproduced speculations and hypotheses based on excavations at Ebla to the effect that Abram possibly did not come, after all, from the Ur of the Chaldees, and perhaps he never reached Canaan. In any case, the Biblical story, even if mythical in substance, has been accepted for thousands of years by the Jewish—and indeed the European—consciousness. According to this story Abram, later called Abraham, came to Canaan to become the father of two sons, Yitzhak and Ishmael, and the founder of two great peoples, Israelites and Ishmaelites, deadlocked today, alas. In the framework of the Jewish epos Abram, with all his adventures, emerges as the lonely man to become the progenitor of a great nation, similar in some respect to Aeneas who is said to have left the burning city of Troy to become the founder of Rome.

Yet, when the Jewish people had reached the Promised Land, hoping this to be the end of their wandering, and actually living there for several centuries in glory and also in predicament and defeat, there came a time when migration was again the order of the day. The deportation to Babylon, a national disaster, was later transformed into a creative period of Jewish learning; the return to Zion at the time of Cyrus (not Cyrus Vance, but the King of ancient Persia), renewed national expectations and also involved Israel in global politics and Hellenistic civilization; and after the destruction of Jerusalem anno 70 came the great Dispersion.

During almost two millennia Jewish History was a chain of persecutions, expulsions and migrations, which actually provided the basic pattern of Jewish existence. The most notable and portentous cases in point were the expulsions from the Iberian Peninsula at the end of the 15th century and the creation of a specific "Sephardi" Judaism, primarily in the Mediterranean orbit, but extending to the Atlantic coast at the Netherlands, the lower Elbe and England. Our own generation has witnessed the great Migration of so-called Oriental Jews, most of them Sephardi, from 1948 onwards, towards the new State of Israel. However artificial or manipulated some of these movements were, they once more changed Jewish reality. To mention only one point, the whole Jewish community in Iraq, dating from the days of the Babylonian Empire, has vanished. All these migrations were not simply geographical shifts; they were shaping the character and peculiarity of great parts of the people itself.

It is obvious that throughout history circumstances and the mental climate of the surrounding world have decisively influenced the way of life and the mentality of the Jewish community dwelling there, however separated and self-centred it might be; there was also an unceasing process of a—partly unconscious—change of ideas and concepts which were—sometimes unwillingly—absorbed into the Jewish system of thought. This process, usually termed "assimilation", is responsible for the multifarious image of the various segments of the nation. This is an objective fact of Jewish history, independent of ideology or political views. At the beginning of the Zionist movement at the end of the 19th century the term "assimilation" was mostly used in a pejorative sense, indicating an attitude of self-humiliation and toadying to the mighty for the sake of advantages. This was stuff for caricature and also a weapon in political fight. Actually, most of the Zionist leaders in Germany were no less assimilated to German culture and subject to its influence than were the Anti-Zionists. There was even an ambition to show they were able to argue with educated Germans on a high intellectual level, using their knowledge of German literature and philosophy.

At the beginning of this century, when a discussion was going on in German Jewry about the relevance of its relationship to all things German, it would not have occurred to anybody to regard the Jewish presence in Germany as a transitory episode. That today we look at all this differently, requires no explanation. But fifty or thirty years before 1933, for German Jewry and its institutions, the notion of emigration applied to East European Jews only, primarily what was called "Russian" Jews, although there was also a considerable sprinkling of Roumanian and Austrian (i.e. Galician) Jews. The events in Russia after the assassination of Tsar Alexander II, the ensuing pogroms and the anti-Jewish legislation of minister Ignatiev had

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## JEWISH MIGRATION

Continued from page 1

alarmed the whole civilized world and Jews everywhere. So 1881 was the year, when the crisis reached dangerous proportions. It was also the beginning of practical Zionism. Leon Pinsker's book *Autoemanzipation*, written in German (Odessa 1882), ideologically motivated the heroic but necessarily slow immigration of the so-called *Bilu* to Ottoman Palestine, then a backward country without resources. A small number went to Western Europe and England, but the main stream of emigrants turned overseas, primarily to legendary America, the land of unlimited possibilities. Hamburg and Bremen were the starting points for the journey across the Atlantic, of which Albert Ballin became one of the principal organisers. Thus started one of the largest migrations of modern times, a phenomenon unparalleled in history, almost unintelligible in its implications, a protracted drama of suffering, deprivation, frustration, irrational expectations, which resulted in the transfer of roughly two million Jews from Eastern Europe to the United States of America. All that has been described in innumerable autobiographies mainly in Yiddish, but also in English. Nobody knew then that this migration with all its torments and uncertainties was a physical rescue for the people concerned and their descendants, saving them from the catastrophe which overcame the whole group in Europe half a century later.

### New York as largest Jewish concentration

Of all this and its consequences we are reminded by a monumental book which brings before our eyes the Epos of this great migration that finally resulted in the formation of American Jewry as we know it today.\* It confines itself to one sector, the Immigrants to New York, but this is typical and decisive. It made New York, one of the biggest cities in the world, also the largest Jewish centre that exists today. Although a considerable part of Jewish emigrants settled also in other parts of the States, New York remains the most characteristic structure, a microcosm with all the positive and negative sides of a mass migration like that envisaged in Exodus.

However, the author places his interest mainly on one category of immigrants, perhaps because this was the nearest to a compact community which clung together and therefore also more clearly exemplifies the group-transformation which is the real main theme of his book. The claim expressed in the subtitle that it is a history of immigration "... to the Present" is misleading; the mostly German speaking "Hitler immigration" after 1933, for instance, is not included although it brought a considerable element of professional and commercial skill to New York. Mr. Howe has essentially written a history of the Yiddish-speaking immigration from Eastern Europe, which was eventually curtailed by the American anti-immigration legislation of 1924. His subject is the rise and decline of the East Side ghetto. There the most active element were the adherents of the various secularized trends, "folkists" or "bundists", with a notable addition of Zionists, standard-bearers of all the socialist and revolutionary ideas imported from Russia.

From the economic point of view it was a favourable moment for immigrants because America, at that stage of its subsequently fabulous industrial development, was in need

of a labour force prepared to do underpaid manual work in order to earn a minimum subsistence; it was a ready victim to exploitation of which the notorious "sweat shops" were only the most spectacular example. Yet, the emigrants were hard-working and thrifty people with organisational skill and anxious to save a penny even of their meagre income for the coming of their "Messias", i.e. of normal life they longed for. Gradually they developed instruments of co-operative self-help, efficient trade unions and Yiddish cultural institutions. In the field of entertainment they achieved a dominant position.

Apart from the many human tragedies involved, in the long run the story of the ghetto had a happy ending by laying the foundation of the most successful and prosperous Jewish Community in the history of the Diaspora. This momentous transformation of a whole people illuminates fundamental problems of Jewish existence of the last hundred years. It offers insight into the working of historical reality and stimulates rethinking the conventional attitudes of ideologies and party groupings. It is an impressive test-case of the working of assimilation.

### Eastern and German Jews clash

Perhaps it is also apt to correct some old prejudices and sentiments, especially between Eastern and Western Jews. From the point of view of formerly German-speaking Jews one of the most interesting points is the relationship of the mainly Russian immigrants of that period to the German Jews who had established themselves in America already in the first half of the 19th century. These German Jews had attained respectable positions in American economic and social life and had become an element of great cultural influence in New York, especially in art and music, in the theatre world and also in journalism (The New York Times and the Washington Post are creations of "German" Jews). When the Russian immigration started, the philanthropic institutions of "German" Jews and their intervention with American authorities was an invaluable factor benefiting the newcomers who found themselves in a completely foreign surrounding; and when in the ghetto the stage was reached which Mr. Howe calls "The Restlessness of Learning", i.e. the beginning of Americanization, idealistic selfless social workers and teachers played a decisive role. Given the difficult circumstances of unsuitable accommodation, overwork and psychological inhibitions, this educational effort was also a source of permanent conflict. As Mr. Howe says: "That the motives of the German Jews were often [sic!] pure seems beyond doubt. They poured money, time and energy into the Alliance, and often were rewarded by the downtown Jews with fury and scorn. Yet neither can it be doubted that the attitude of the German Jews were calculated to enrage..." Here follows a quotation from a local Jewish paper which "found these plebeian Jews slovenly in dress, loud in manners and vulgar in discourse, and would have liked to pull down the ghetto... and scatter its members to the corners of the nation." Spokesmen of the East Side replied in unmistakable anti-compliments; but in hindsight one has to admit that the paper only predicted what the inmates of the ghetto themselves carried out a generation later when they had an opportunity of what Mr. Howe calls "dispersion", namely, being "scattered" to other parts of New York and the United States.

Actually, with growing Americanization the gap narrowed, and in the Second World War the descendants of the once-ghetto Jews became prosperous enough to imitate rather than

to hate the upper class. A special tribute is paid by Howe to Herbert Lehmann who was a leading Democrat politician and was elected governor of New York State in 1933, the year when Franklin D. Roosevelt became President of the United States and Hitler German *Reichskanzler*. Lehmann achieved popularity with the East Side as he lent the Garment Workers Union \$50,000 to help them recover from an ill-fated strike; he, says Howe, rather patronizingly, "became the first German-Jewish figure whom the East-European Jews could accept without reservation, adopting him as quite one of their own. This was a fact of some importance since it helped heal the split between the two main strands of American Judaism... The way was now being prepared for the last, and perhaps major, step that would carry the radical or once-radical Jewish workers into the traditional milieu of American politics..."

In other words, it was the end of the road to assimilation which was reached more quickly than in the case of German Jews of the 19th century, because the Eastern Jewish masses, unknowingly, had been catapulted from autocratic Tsarist Russia with one stroke into a democracy without discriminatory laws; they had been spared the hundred years struggle for emancipation which German Jews had had to fight. Back in 19th century Germany the Jews of Central Europe had been radically changed after the period of Enlightenment, the Tolerance Edict of Emperor Joseph II, the appearance of Moses Mendelssohn, and the religious Reform. This had created strong antagonism from the East European Jews who regarded the Westerners as heretics and as corrupting traditional Judaism at a time when even acquiring minimum secular knowledge was regarded by orthodox Jews as apostasy. This conflict determined the relationship between the two groups for almost a hundred years (before Enlightenment reached Eastern Europe) and had also been imported to America. As the future showed, it was merely a difference in time. When the Eastern Jews had the opportunity, they went the same way of assimilation as the German Jews before them.

It need hardly be added that the post-assimilation immigrant Jews have acquired an outstanding position in America, especially in commercial and intellectual life. The names of the galaxy of famous modern American writers and scholars, descendants of immigrants, are known to all. Great numbers of the second or third generation fill positions at American Universities. For them the meaning of Judaism has also become a problem which has by no means been solved.

This, however, brings us to another side of contemporary Jewish life, which is no longer geared to migration. Nevertheless, it is a subject of foremost significance to the Jewish existence and consciousness in an ever changing and dangerous world. The Holocaust and the State of Israel have opened a completely new chapter of Jewish History in the making. The New York East Side ghetto and the Jewish East-West conflict belong to the past. Somewhat melancholically Mr. Howe summarizes: "A good portion of what was best in Jewish life, as also what was worst, derived from secularized messianism as it passed on from generation to generation... The immigrant Jews... found a way, for a time, of linking the high moral fervour they had brought with them and the hope for social betterment America aroused in them. Perhaps the union of the two was the closest to a normal life that Jews could reach." But can that be the end of the long road that started with Exodus? I wonder (as Bernard Shaw does at the end of "St. Joan").

\* Irving Howe (with the assistance of Kenneth Libo). *The Immigrant Jews of New York, 1881 to the Present*. Routledge & Kegan Paul, London and Boston, 1976. 714pp. £8. (The Litman Library of Jewish Civilization).



## HOME NEWS

## Anglo-Judaica

## JEWISH JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Chief Rabbi's Office has announced that Anglo-Jewry's principal festivities to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee will consist of communal and congregational services of thanksgiving, exhibitions, lectures and other planned events in synagogues and schools throughout the country. The Anglo-Jewish Association and the Board of Deputies have been invited to Buckingham Palace as the "privileged bodies" to present the Loyal Address on behalf of British Jewry. On June 4, special services will be held in all synagogues, and on June 12 the Chief Rabbi will preach the sermon at a common service at the Central Synagogue, Great Portland Street. A similar service will be held at the annual conference of the Association of Reform Rabbis at Harrogate. The Liberal Synagogues have not yet published their plans. The major interdenominational event in which Jews will take part will be a symphony concert at Westminster Abbey in support of the Silver Jubilee Fund for Youth of which the Prince of Wales is chairman. It will be jointly sponsored by the Council of Christians and Jews and the Board of Deputies and organised by Yehudi Menuhin who is also the principal artist. The Chief Rabbi will follow a precedent set by his predecessors to attend royal occasions at Christian places of worship provided they are not inter-faith services. The Jewish Male Choir plans a jubilee concert at the Wembley Conference Centre in May. Joseph Horowitz, the gifted Vienna-born composer and musician, has composed a "Jubilee Toy Symphony," one of five new works commissioned by the London celebration committee. Its first performance will be at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on June 5.

## FOUR JEWS IN CABINET

When recently Mr. Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was invited to join the Cabinet, the number of Jews among top-ranking ministers rose to four, an all-time record. The other three are Mr. Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Mr. Edmund Dell, Trade Secretary, and Mr. John Silkin, Minister for Agriculture, Fishery and Food. During the five months preceding Mr. Crosland's death, the new Foreign Secretary, Dr. David Owen, was in charge of British policy in the Middle East and paid a visit to Israel which he would have repeated this month if events had not overtaken him.

## SUNDAY BANK OPENING

The recently opened Bank Leumi branch in Golders Green introduced a new fashion by being the first bank in Britain to open on Sunday. The manager, Mr. Levine, said after the first Sunday opening that more people used the bank in the two hours it was open than on other days and several new accounts were opened.

## KOSHER HAGGIS IN SCOTLAND

The all-women committee of the Central British Fund in Scotland invited members and friends to a "Burns Supper" on the evening of the Scottish poet's anniversary. The haggis was ceremoniously piped in, as is customary on the occasion. Sheriff J. Irvine Smith toasted the "immortal memory" of the poet. Some £2,000 was raised at the function.

## PRIESTS FOR ISRAEL

The Finchley Anglo-Israel Friendship League whose president is Mrs. Margaret Thatcher organised its third study tour of Israel in which a number of civic dignitaries and priests, mostly from Barnet, participated.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle

## NATIONAL FRONT AND THE JEWS

Mr. P. Kavanagh, the National Front Candidate who obtained over 5 per cent of the votes in the recent Westminster by-election, said that Jewish and other immigrants who came to this country after 1948, should be repatriated. When asked what would happen to Jews whose country of origin would not have them back, he said: "The idea of the State of Israel was to provide a home for Jews in various parts of the world who wanted to emigrate." Mr. Verity, a former chairman of the National Front, has left the movement after a row, claiming that its aims were more sinister than was generally seen. "There is a deep hatred for coloured people and the Jews. The more I was involved, the more I was convinced it was a Nazi machine." In the N.F. magazine "Spearhead," the editor, Martin Webster, said that "fabulously rich Zionists and international finance dominated by persons of pro-Zionist and Jewish background were involved in an elaborate plot to destroy other ethnic groups whilst maintaining Jewish exclusivity. A nationalist Britain would inevitably come into conflict with the internationalist cosmopolitanism of the Jewish community." Nevertheless, he concluded: "We of the N.F. find ourselves attacked by the Zionists as being anti-Jewish which we are not." The Board of Deputies has expressed concern at recent developments and advocated a national campaign to combat the support for racist parties in the interest of all sections of the community.

## KU KLUX KLAN IN BRITAIN

Mr. Paul Rose, M.P. for Blackley, Manchester, has drawn the attention of the authorities to the emergence of the Ku Klux Klan in Britain and has asked the Home Office to investigate. A number of racist propagandists, he said, were escaping prosecution under the Race Relations Act by having their illegal literature posted to Britons from abroad. One example of this was the correspondence which the Klan's "Imperial Wizard" sent to British people from Louisiana. People acquitted in Manchester Courts of inciting racial prejudice were sent recruiting letters by the Klan, some of them even postmarked in Manchester. Some of the letters say: "If we hear from you, a senior British ex-serviceman will call on you to help your organisation." One of the recipients, 21-year-old Malcolm Sutcliffe of Bolton, said the letter had scared him stiff and he had no intention of joining. It gave advice on how to organise Klan groups and added: "You are advised to recruit Protestant people. No Catholics, no Jews, no coloured people. No Communists, no Left-wingers or Powell-haters."

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## CBF Grants

The Central British Fund decided at a Council meeting to make grants totalling £23,969. £21,500 of this is earmarked for Jews in the USSR and coming out of the USSR, and nearly £3,000 for aged Jews in North Africa.

## Retirement of Cantor Dollinger

The Rev. Josef Dollinger recently retired as Cantor of the Belsize Square Synagogue. As successor to the late Cantor Magnus Davidsohn, 70-year-old Cantor Dollinger served the Synagogue for 21 years. By his professional abilities and, above all, by his deep humanity, he has gained the affection of the members of the Congregation as well as of many other people who have the privilege of knowing him. He has also given concerts in our Old Age homes.

## Jewish Mayor of Richmond

Mr. Sidney Grose, a leading freemason and a former master of the Lodge of Israel No. 205 is to be the next Mayor of Richmond.

## Students Protest against Rabbi

Students at Jews' College have voiced a strong protest against the St. John's Wood Synagogue's invitation to Dutch Rabbi Menachem Fink to become their new minister. They feel that vacancies should be filled by ministers trained at the College and familiar with the Anglo-Jewish community. Rabbi Fink was born in Argentina and trained in Israel.

## Barnet and Ramat Gan—Twin Towns

At a meeting of the Friends of Ramat Gan, Councillor Hirshfield (Cons) thanked Labour and Conservative Council members who had supported the twinning of Barnet and Ramat Gan. The non-Jewish mayor of Barnet, Councillor Pares, president of the "Friends", spoke of the accord between the two boroughs and said that Barnet had sent their twin a silver cup. Four of the nine members, who had taken part in the first study tour of Ramat Gan at the end of December, reported on their experiences. Mrs. Rita Levy, the secretary stated that there would be a joint function in April between the friends and Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan and that the Ramat Gan football team would visit Barnet later this year.

## Bequest for Lodge Day Centre

Mrs. Stephanie List has left her stamp collection and a television set to the Leo Baeck Day Centre, run by the Leo Baeck Lodge in Daleham Gardens, Hampstead. She died last September.

## Anniversary of Manchester Rabbi

Rabbi Felix F. Carlebach, a member of the family that has provided many rabbis and scholars to the German-Jewish community, celebrated his 30th anniversary as rabbi of the South Manchester Synagogue.

## Request for piano

Our Communal Centre, Hannah Karminski House, badly needs an upright piano in good condition for its hall. Any members who are willing and able to donate an instrument of which they have to dispose, because they move into smaller premises or have to dissolve their households, should kindly contact the office of the AJR (Mrs. S. Panke), 8 Fairfax Mansions, London NW3 6JY (Tel: 624 9096/7).



# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Inter-Chasidic Battle in Brooklyn

Brooklyn has given new homes to the remnants of the large European rabbinic dynasties of the Chasidic movement who managed to escape the gas-chambers. Now they are fighting against each other. The young and violent followers of the Satmar movement have launched vicious attacks against the famous Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Schneerson. One of the "Torah tanks", used by the Lubavitch youth organisation to spread the word of Torah among American Jews in Manhattan, was stoned. The offices of the Yiddish-language "Allgemeiner Journal" were bombed, and the cemetery where the former Lubavitcher Rebbe is buried, was defiled. In leaflets with obscene drawings, the Lubavitch movement is "accused" of Zionism. In one leaflet the Entebbe operation was likened to the Nazi rescue of Mussolini during the last war. The trouble stems from a clash on the Movements' attitude to Israel. The Lubavitch group also maintains that Israel will only be restored with the coming of the Messiah, but nevertheless maintains friendly relations with the State of Israel and allows families to go on aliya there. Rabbi Schneerson praised Entebbe as an authentic miracle from heaven and thus caused the present wave of violence.

### Doubtful "Alternative"

A number of American Jewish organisations and publications have attacked the small, 1,500-member Jewish organisation "Breira" for suggesting alternatives to Israeli policies involving Palestinians and Arabs generally. ("Breira" means "alternatives".) In a leaflet distributed at the U.N. when Yasir Arafat spoke there, Breira called for an affirmation by Israel of her willingness to talk to the full range of Palestinian leadership. The appeal was signed by only 40 of Breira's 118-man advisory committee. Amongst the missing names was that of Rabbi Joachim Prinz who was, nevertheless, attacked for stating in a newspaper article that he had resigned from Breira in the summer of 1976, but that he found its members dedicated to the creative survival of Israel within secure borders and to Jewish life in the diaspora. He had never found them to be a front of the PLO.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said he had never provided funds to Breira nor had he been asked to do so, but he had never discouraged friends from contributing to an organisation of idealistic young Zionists with a right to speak their minds. The right-wing movement of Herut of Great Britain has protested against Dr. Goldmann's statement and has asked the Board of Deputies to dissociate itself from Dr. Goldmann's "outrageous remarks" and to demand his resignation.

### Pro-Israeli American Ambassador

Mr. Carter's Ambassador to the United Nations, the negro Andrew Young, is well known for his pro-Israeli attitude. During the Yom Kippur War he declared his solidarity with Israel, and in August 1975 he was one of the ten black US politicians who opposed Arab attempts to have Israel thrown out of the UN. He has also publicly spoken against the oil embargo. One of his first actions after his nomination was a meeting with the Israeli UN Ambassador Chaim Herzog.

### Anti-Boycott Success

In answer to the firm attitude of American government and trade authorities, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya and Saudi Arabia have informed the New York Chamber of Commerce, that they no longer insist on a guaranty that goods ordered in America are not of Israeli provenance.

## AUSTRALASIA

### First New Zealand Synagogue to close

The 107-year-old Beth-El Synagogue, consecrated in 1870, and the Wellington Jewish Social Club will be demolished in the near future to make way for a motorway and a street-widening scheme. The Hebrew Congregation and the Social Club have now pooled their resources and built a new community centre with a main synagogue which will be consecrated by Rabbi Abraham Rosenfeld, formerly reader at the Kinloss Gardens Synagogue, Finchley, a Beth Hamedrash for weekly services, a mikvah, a school, a large conference hall, games rooms and two kitchens.

### Apology for newspaper attack on Jews

In a recent edition of the "Hellenic Herald", a mass-circulation Greek community weekly in Australia, the prominent labour leader Mr. Bob Hawke was attacked for his pro-Israeli attitude. The paper added: "As it is known—and this is the case the world over—the Jews control and decide everything in the Australian community". All sections of the public protested against the attack and an inquiry will be opened under the Australian Racial Discrimination Act. The management of the paper has now published an apology.

### GREEK REMEMBRANCE OF MURDERED CHILDREN

Representatives of the authorities and of the 1,100 strong Jewish community attended a memorial service held at a city primary school for the 12,000 Salonika Jewish children deported and killed by the Nazis. Formerly the school belonged to the Jewish community which modernised it after the war and presented it to the city. A marble plaque in the entrance records the massacre. More than 95 per cent of the Jews of Northern Greece were deported and killed after the 1941 German invasion.

## AUSTRIA

### Rifles for Syria?

The Austrian Parliament has established an inquiry commission to investigate the illegal export of Austrian rifles and ammunition to Syria. A zealous customs official at Vienna's international airport spotted a consignment of 600 rifles and 400,000 rounds of ammunition with Austrian Army markings which was being loaded on to a Bulgarian charter aircraft. They were addressed to the "Syrian Military Pen-tathlon Team, Damascus" and being sent by a private arms dealer who obtained permission from the Defence Ministry. The Austrian Government has also authorised the sale of 2,000 lorries to the Syrian Army.

### Jewish shop bombed

The shop "Miss Bocara" in the centre of Vienna which sells Marks & Spencer goods and is owned by a Jewish woman, was bombed and badly damaged. An obscure group which calls itself "Anti-Fascist Resistance" and has previously attacked the office of a Jewish textile manufacturer involved in a dispute with Leftists, has claimed responsibility.

### Neue Zeitschrift fuer Oesterreicher

Das Auslandsoesterreicherwerk (AOEW) bereitet im Zusammenhang mit der Umgestaltung der Auslands-Oesterreichischen Zeitschriften eine Zeitschrift in Form eines Magazins vor, welche zehnmal im Jahr ab September 1977 an Interessenten versendet werden soll.

Diesbezugliche Anfragen moegen schriftlich an die Oesterreichische Botschaft, 18 Belgrave Mews West, London, SW1X 8HU bis spaetstens Ende April gerichtet werden.

## NEWS FROM THE EAST

### SOVIET JEWS SUE TV

An anti-Israel film "The Buyers of Souls", shown on the main Soviet TV channel at peak viewing time, showed a leading Jewish activist, Mr Vladimir Slepak, embracing an Israeli athlete who visited Moscow some years ago as a member of a sports team. The film commentator asked how centres for contacting Zionists could have been established in the USSR. He also said that Slepak and three other activists were financed from abroad and were "soldiers of Zionism" in the Soviet Union. Tourists brought them anti-Soviet material and they probably had links with the CIA. Prominent Western artists and writers were depicted as dupes of Zionist propaganda, and the British and American organisations campaigning for Soviet Jewry were called agents of Jewish capitalists. The film included an obviously faked sequence, said to have been filmed in London, representing a "fat Jew" handing out five-pound notes to demonstrators. The four activists attacked in the film who have repeatedly been refused exit permits for Israel, have started proceedings for insulting their honour and dignity against the State Broadcasting and Television Authority.

### NO MATZO GIFTS THIS YEAR

The Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits, has protested against a recent Soviet instruction that, contrary to previous practice, no matzo parcels will be admitted into the Soviet Union this year. The Chief Rabbi, together with Lord Fisher, president of the Board of Deputies, and Mr. Yasha Lossos, an expert in the supply of matzo parcels to Jews in Russia, are in consultation on what steps to take in view of the ban.

### EICHMANN LIE BY MOSCOW PAPER

The Russian illustrated weekly "Ogonyak" with a circulation of over two million, published an article which claimed that Israel had captured and executed Adolf Eichmann because he had been witness to secret negotiations before the last war to set up a pro-Nazi Jewish State. In 1937, the article maintains, Eichmann visited Palestine for negotiations and sought co-operation between Hitler's security services and those of "the Jewish Agency in Palestine". A number of Jewish activists in Moscow have called the attention of Western correspondents to the article which appeared as part of an intensified anti-Jewish campaign. The author, Lev Kornev, has also written a book and a number of articles about Western and Israeli intelligence services.

### SIT-INS IN 16 CITIES

More than 150 Soviet Jews staged sit-ins outside the Supreme Soviet buildings in 16 Russian cities demanding a written explanation for the refusal of the authorities to allow them to emigrate. All these requests were rejected, only in Kiev the six Ukrainian demonstrators were told that they would receive a written explanation within a month.

### DEATH OF COURAGEOUS WRITER

Alexander Isbakh who has died in Moscow, aged 73, was the only Soviet-Jewish writer who dared to describe the conflict between Zionism and Communism that involved Jewish youth in Tsarist Russia. For that and for printing the text of the Hatikvah in 1948, he was persecuted for years, notwithstanding the fact that he was a life-long Communist and a front-line soldier during the whole of the Second World War, decorated with high military honours. After Stalin's death he was restored to his former status and appointed Professor of the Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow.

### RESTITUTION BY POLAND?

The Polish Government is reported to have agreed in principle to pay restitution to former Jewish citizens after negotiations with the countries where they now live.



# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## SS-REUNIONS IN 1977

The SS Veteran organisations have planned a number of meetings, both in West Germany and abroad, for the coming summer. The parachute veterans plan a meeting in Normandy, the "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler" and the "Hitler Youth" Veterans will meet at the 7 metre high SS memorial column in the communal cemetery of Marienfeld in Bavaria. When it was erected the local authorities countered international protests by stating the SS had only bought space for a double grave from the cemetery administration.

## PRISON CROCKERY WITH SWASTIKAS

A prisoner denounced the director of Bernau prison in Bavaria because cutlery and crockery in the prison frequently showed the swastika. The director said that it happened from time to time that such implements turned up, but they were always sorted out and removed.

## NO SS MEMORIAL FOR ALTENKIRCHEN

A great number of German and foreign organisations had lodged protests against a unanimous resolution of the town council of Altenkirchen (Westerwald) to give permission for the erection of a memorial to the former SS Grenadier Division "Hohenstaufen". After a number of negotiations with the town mayor and members of his staff, the Division withdrew their application "in order to avoid the town coming to harm".

## SPANDAU MEMORIAL TABLET

At the initiative of the Spandau Borough Council, a memorial tablet was unveiled on the site of the former synagogue which was destroyed on November 8, 1938. The ancient community of Spandau comprised 600 members in 1933. The last Rabbi was Rabbi Dr. Arthur Loewenstamm, who held this office for more than two decades. After his liberation from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, he found refuge in this country, where he was Director of Studies of the Society for Jewish Study and a member of the Examination Board for Reform Rabbis. He died in Morris Feinmann House, Manchester, in 1965. —E.G.L.

## DONATION FOR CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

The Evangelical Aid Organisation for Racial Persecutees in Stuttgart has donated more than £18,000 for the Israeli children's village Kiriath Yearim and the Beth David Home for Arab Youth, in Jerusalem. The organisation continues to tend the graves of victims of Nazi persecution in Germany.

## "SOLL UND HABEN" ON GERMAN TV

Gustav Freytag's novel "Soll und Haben" which is notorious for its continuous derogatory remarks about Jews and Poles, is to be revived in a film for German Television. In the "Frankfurter Allgemeine", Professor Hans Mayer protests against the plan saying that it had certainly influenced generations of Germans in their attitude towards Jews and Poles. Did those responsible for the project realise this or had they never read the novel?

## PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS ARRESTED

One hundred and twenty policemen raided the camp at Amberg near Nuremberg which houses foreigners seeking asylum in W. Germany and arrested two Palestinians suspected of belonging to a group which plans terror attacks in Western Germany. They carried Lebanese passports.

## BUBER-ROSENZWEIG MEDAL 1977

At the opening of the annual "Week of Brotherhood", the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal of the Societies for Christian Jewish Co-operation was presented to the Swiss author Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

## HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR GERTRUD LUCKNER

The Hebrew Union College in America conferred an honorary doctorate on 76-year-old Dr. Gertrud Luckner of Freiburg who frequently risked life and liberty to save Jews and other "non-Aryans". She was in a concentration camp from 1943-1945 and after the war became a protagonist of mutual understanding between Christians and Jews, and of the moral duty of restitution. —E.G.L.

## A HERO REMEMBERED

A West German Korczak Society has been formed to commemorate the work of the Polish-Jewish physician, Dr. Korczak, who established a Jewish orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto under Nazi occupation and, refusing safe conduct, accompanied the children to Treblinka concentration camp and was killed with them. Dr. Korczak was also a well-known educationalist and author of children's books, and the society plans to republish some of them and to establish a prize in his name. The first award in 1978 will mark the centenary of his birth.

## MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY PRIZE

This year's recipients of the Mendelssohn Bartholdy Prize were the American pianist Marioara Trifan (with 5,000 DM) and a Japanese Trio, whose members study at the State Musical College in Detmold (with 2,000 DM each). The Mendelssohn Bartholdy Endowment, created for the benefit of young musicians, was originally founded in 1878 with the help of the heirs of the composer. It was dissolved by the Nazis in 1934 and reconstituted under the auspices of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz in 1963. —E.G.L.

## EXHIBITIONS

Sketches by the well-known architect, the late Erich Mendelsohn, which were acquired by Berlin Arts Library (Staatliche Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz) are on view in the Exhibition "Five Architects in Five Centuries", of the Dahlem Museum. Mendelsohn's works include the Einstein Tower in Potsdam, the Schocken Department Store in Stuttgart, the "House of Jewish Youth" in Essen, the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, as well as many villas and blocks of flats in various countries.

The Exhibition of the Berlin Historical Museum in the Lindenstrasse, held under the heading "Park and Landscape in Berlin and the Mark Brandenburg", includes works by Max Liebermann and Lesser Ury. —E.G.L.

## "21 HOURS OF MUNICH"

The American film about the tragedy of the 1972 Munich Olympics had its European first night in a crowded Vienna cinema. Its title is: "21 hours of Munich".

## CAMPS

### INTERNMENT—P.O.W.— FORCED LABOUR—KZ

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## VERSCHLECHTERUNG DER RECHTE AUS DEUTSCHER SOZIALVERSICHERUNG?

Die deutschen Versicherungsanstalten haben jetzt eine Beschränkung in der Zahlung von deutschen Sozialversicherungsrenten ins Ausland, d.h. an Personen, die nicht in der Bundesrepublik oder in West-Berlin ihren Wohnsitz haben, eingeführt. Diese Beschränkung bezieht sich nicht auf Faelle, in denen ein Rentenbescheid bereits ergangen ist.

Die neue Praxis besteht darin, dass Renten dann nicht ins Ausland gezahlt werden sollen, wenn sie auf Beiträgen beruhen, die sich auf Arbeiten in Gebieten beziehen, die nicht zur Bundesrepublik gehören. In diesem Zusammenhang werden bis zum 31.1.1949 in Berlin geleistete Beiträge genau so behandelt wie Beiträge im Bundesgebiet Deutschland, gleichgültig ob es sich um Beiträge in Ost-Berlin oder in West-Berlin handelt. Die Beschränkung bezieht sich also z.B. auf Breslau, Leipzig, Königsberg, Prag, Sudetenland. Wenn die Beiträge sich teilweise auf Arbeit im Bundesgebiet und teilweise auf Arbeit ausserhalb des Bundesgebietes beziehen, gelten besondere Bestimmungen. Wir müssen es uns im Rahmen dieser kurzen Mitteilung versagen, diese näher zu erklären.

Bei der Einführung dieser Beschränkung berufen sich die Versicherungsbehoerden darauf, dass nach den einschlägigen Vorschriften die Auslandszahlung derartiger Renten an Deutsche, an ehemalige Deutsche, die Nazi-Verfolgte sind, und an gewisse Vertriebenengruppen (z.B. Vertriebene aus Boehmen und Maehren) auf einer Kann-Vorschrift beruht. Bisher haben die Versicherungsanstalten derartige Renten tatsaechlich immer ins Ausland gezahlt. Seit kurzem wird jedoch die Zahlung ins Ausland abgelehnt.

In vielen Faellen wird man der neuen unguenstigen Praxis der Versicherungsanstalten durch Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen entgegenwirken koennen. Dies setzt natuerlich voraus, dass ein Nachentrichtungsrecht besteht. Ein neuer Nachentrichtungs-Antrag koennte jedoch nur dann gestellt werden, wenn die Antragsfrist, die am 31. Dezember, 1975, abgelaufen ist, wieder eroeffnet wird.

Die obigen Ausfuehrungen moegen als vorlaeufige Mitteilung betrachtet werden. Die Claims Conference und der ihr angeschlossene Council of Jews from Germany betrachten die im Verwaltungswege eingefuehrte Neuregelung als eine ungerechtfertigte Verschlechterung auf einem Gebiete, das mit der Wiedergutmachung untrennbar verbunden ist. Vorstellungen bei der Regierung sind zur Zeit im Gange und werden mit Nachdruck weiter betrieben werden. Wir hoffen daher, dass das letzte Wort in dieser Sache noch nicht gesprochen ist.

## JUDGEMENT AGAINST FEDERAL POST OFFICE

The Frankfurt Appeal Court rejected the appeal of the Federal Post Authorities against a fine of £600 for the non-delivery of registered letters from the West German Action Committee for Jews in the USSR to addresses in Russia. The chairman of the committee had started proceedings because in his view, upheld by the Frankfurt Lower Court, the German Postal authorities were responsible as members of the Universal Postal Union and could, for their part, claim redress from the Soviet authorities for non-delivery. The letters had contained copies of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and had been intercepted by Soviet censorship which either returned them to the sender or destroyed them. At first, the West German Post Office had paid about £10 per letter, but had then ceased to do so, and the matter was the subject of heated discussions in Parliament.



F. Walter

## WEIMAR EYE WITNESS

### A Record of 14 Eventful Years

"Three months and two weeks later, on February 1919, I stood at the street corner near the Landtag, staring at a large pool of blood that had been hastily covered with sand. I had rushed to the inner town straight from school; we had heard rumours that something dreadful had happened."

The dreadful happening was the assassination of Kurt Eisner, the Social-Democratic Prime Minister of Bavaria after the 1918 revolution, and I have chosen this sentence from Egon Larsen's book "Weimar Eye-witness" (Bachmann & Turner, London, £4.25) because it may help to explain not only its title but the deeper impulses which made him write it. Egon Larsen, well-known to the readers of this paper, was born in Munich and a 15 year old schoolboy when he saw what he describes in the above quoted sentence. His book is indeed an eyewitness account of all he saw and lived through between 1918 and 1933, all the more valuable and important as so many other books now published on the epoch of the Weimar Republic are not written from the vantage point of first-hand experience which qualified Egon Larsen to write his book.

His inclination to become a journalist and writer manifested itself early. When still a schoolboy, he and some of his friends edited a school-magazine; it was distributed by Golo Mann who went to the same grammar school as Egon Larsen but who, at ten years of age, was still too young to contribute to it. It was of course, "rebellious" in content. But in retrospect Egon Larsen asks a very pertinent question. I will again quote as I will have to do so many more times in this review.

"Were we", he asks, "the coming generation of German citizens, really concerned about the turbulent events of the times, about politics, as teenagers are today? And were we, like them, rebels as a matter of course? We certainly were concerned, but differently: not about the general state of the world, the perils facing mankind, or the establishment. We had been too much involved for that. We had starved, our generation had lost many of their fathers and brothers. The block of flats opposite the one where I lived had been requisitioned as a sanatorium for wounded soldiers; the daily sight of maimed men had a traumatic effect. After that war, peace was what we were most concerned about, and so our political 'cause' was a simple one: to make sure that yesterday's men, the people who wanted revenge for Germany's defeat, would never get the upper hand. That we had lost the war did not, at first, seem very important—it was over, and that was what mattered most, especially to us young people and to the working class. . . . We did not recognise the ominous signs, the danger of the 'stab-in-the-back' legend."

In quite another context, in that of the catastrophic German inflation in the early twenties, Egon Larsen raises the same ques-

tion. He concludes his very lucid, precise, often moving account of those hectic and unhappy years with the following remark:

"The Dawes Plan money which flowed into Germany also helped the recovery of the large industrial works in the Munich area. I think most of us thought it best to forget all about what had happened in 1923. We also forgot about Hitler."

This is the often discussed and anguished question of the "unpolitische" attitude of the German and German-Jewish "Buergetum", an attitude which Thomas Mann defended so ardently in his "Betrachtungen eines Unpolitischen" as an expression of the overriding German concern for "Kultur" as opposed to the concept of "Zivilisation" and of which he himself, later on, very wisely and with deeper insight and woeful experience, no less ardently—and actively—disapproved.

Egon Larsen's chapter on the inflation is one of the most enlightening of his book because it contains a warning lesson for our own times. Again I quote:

"A friend of mine who attended lectures at the Hamburg School of Economics in the winter of 1922-23 heard its director, one of Germany's most respected economists, tell his students, almost with tears in his eyes: 'The truth is that none of us so-called experts has any idea what actually happens in an inflation'."

Egon Larsen's personal and family story is very skillfully and convincingly interwoven with the history of the Weimar Republic of which it forms a part. In the mid-twenties his father and uncles, owners of an old-established "Loden" manufacture, sold the site on which their factory stood to a Berlin film company. Having been old-fashioned merchants, they had sustained too heavy losses during the inflation to be able to continue. Larsen himself went to Berlin where, after a prolonged spell of unemployment, he became the Berlin correspondent of a Munich newspaper. In his account of the prosperous years between 1925 and 1929 he very wisely abstains from giving us a rose-coloured picture of the "goldenen zwanziger Jahre". He had a sharp, clear, compassionate eye for the darker and shadier sides of life in Berlin during those years.

But he was, as we all were, fascinated and deeply impressed by Berlin's artistic and intellectual life, that incomparable flowering of the arts, especially of the art of the theatre

and cinema. He aptly calls it the "cultural miracle" of the Weimar Republic. "To do justice to those activities one would have to draw up a long, boring list of names and works, a catalogue of intellectual and artistic creations", he justly writes.

Still, the names he cannot but mention and on some of which he dwells lovingly, names of dramatists, poets, composers, musicians, singers, actors and actresses, names forgotten and dear to all of us who knew or saw them, evoke a powerful feeling of nostalgia in us. It is the underlying, though always restrained emotion of Egon Larsen's book itself. One feels it all the more strongly, as Larsen here unfolds his narrative gifts and conveys to us the very feeling, the unique atmosphere of those days—even of Berlin's "Kabarets" and of its more sordid or more enjoyable "Nachtlokale".

Most of Berlin's great artists were, as we all know, Jewish. And again I think it eminently worth-while to quote Larsen's summing-up of this side of the "Jewish problem" in the Weimar Republic:

"There is no doubt that Jewish talent, imagination, lightness of touch, sense of taste and—last not least—sense of humour were responsible for what we now call, in retrospect, Weimar culture. The sad proof of this came after 1945, when Berlin, like the whole of Germany, was in a deep cultural depression. There were no more Jews to help lift it up again, as they had done after that first lost war a quarter of a century earlier."

"But to call Weimar culture Jewish Culture would be wrong. What we witnessed was a natural symbiosis of Jewish and non-Jewish talents, inspiring, fertilizing, complementing each other. This was most obvious on a personal level where Jews and Gentiles either worked together or competed with each other as professional colleagues: Brecht and Weill, Gropius and Mendelsohn, Pabst and Lang, Einstein and Planck, Kästner and Tucholsky, Reinhardt and Piscator, to mention but a few couples. And this chemistry of personalities was not confined to the younger generation with its strong creative drive; for instance, there were still the two grand old men of German impressionism, Max Slevogt and Max Liebermann, the Bavarian-born cosmopolitan and the plain-speaking Berlin Jew . . ."

### ARCHIVES OF CITIES IN FORMER WEST PRUSSIA

The "Beitraege zur Geschichte Westpreussens" (No. 5, Nicolaus-Copernicus-Verlag, Muenster/Westf., 1976) carries a well-founded and informative survey by Dr. Peter Letkemann (Berlin) about the history of the West Prussian municipal archives and their whereabouts. As far as can be ascertained, of the 57 archives 20 have been lost or are not traceable. The remainder is deposited mainly in the archives of the now Polish districts of Danzig, Stettin, Bromberg, Thorn and Koeslin; only a few files are deposited in West Berlin. In view of the high proportion of Jewish families which originate from these former parts of Germany, the archives may also be of Jewish genealogical interest.—EGL.

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## PERSONALIA

### FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR VON HASE

After more than seven years, Herr Karl-Günther von Hase will leave his office as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in London. He has been appointed Director-General of the Second Television Network. Born in 1917, Herr von Hase grew up in Berlin. Before he was appointed Ambassador to the Court of St. James's on February 1, 1970, he was head of the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government from 1962 to 1967 and, from 1968 to 1969, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

These are some of the bare biographical facts. Yet in bidding farewell to Herr von Hase, we think in the first place of his outstanding human qualities. Though he was originally a professional officer, there are no traits of the "schneidige" attitude which we are inclined to associate with Prussian military characteristics. In fact, he is just the opposite. He is flexible and easily approachable to everybody, and whenever one has the pleasure of meeting him, one is struck anew by the cordiality, sincerity and genuine personal interest he takes in his fellow-men whatever their background and standing. Post-war Germany could not have wished for a more suitable representative in this country, and the effectiveness of his work has been widely recognised in Britain.

The large circle of those in whom his departure evokes feelings of sadness includes a great number of former German Jews. On many occasions, he and Frau von Hase acted as their hosts. In doing so they had the gift of making them also acquainted with eminent British-born politicians, writers and artists. Thus they not only established bonds of friendship between us and representatives of post-war Germany, but also helped to promote contacts between Britain's "new" and old citizens.

Herr von Hase has always had an open mind for our own problems and, whenever need arose, was ready to help us. Actually, he himself was a victim of the Nazi régime. After July 20, 1944, he had to leave the general staff, because members of his family had been involved in the plot to remove Hitler. It is significant that, when speaking to one of us, he would never refer to the fate of close relatives of his who had lost their lives on account of their anti-Nazi activities. We only learned it through third sources.

At one of the farewell parties, which took place during recent weeks, the writer of this valedictory message took the opportunity of presenting Herr and Frau von Hase on behalf of the AJR with a book recently published under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Institute and comprising memoirs of German Jews during the last century. Two days later, we received from him a letter of thanks which carries the following sentences:

"Sie wissen sicher, wie sehr mich alle Berührungspunkte und Gemeinsamkeiten in der deutsch-jüdischen Geschichte interessieren. Ich darf Ihnen auch auf diesem Wege noch einmal meinen Dank fuer die gute Zusammenarbeit sagen und wuensche Ihnen und Ihrem ganzen Kreis fuer die Zukunft alles Gute."

We cannot do better than to reciprocate most cordially these good wishes to Bot-schafter and Frau von Hase and their family.

W. ROSENSTOCK

### GERMAN AWARD

Dr. Josef Cohn, executive vice-president of the European Committee for the Weizmann Institute was awarded the Federal German Order of Merit First Class. Dr. Cohn was closely associated with the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, whom he first met when he was a student in Heidelberg in 1921. At that time, Weizmann was looking for an English-speaking assistant and Dr. Cohn accepted the position. When the Nazis came to power, Dr. Weizmann saw the newly founded Daniel Sieff Institute — the precursor of the Weizmann Institute — as a most appropriate new field of activities for the dismissed German Jewish scientists. Dr. Cohn was active in putting this idea into practice. Since the end of the war he has worked for co-operation between German and Israeli scientists, strengthening the relationship between Germany and Israel especially by the organisation of German-Israeli conferences on scientific subjects, and also raised the general interest of Germany in the work of the Weizmann Institute.

### H. G. ADLER HONOURED

The University of Vienna has made Hans G. Adler, the Prague writer who survived concentration camps and now lives in London, a Professor. Adler has received many other, equally deserved awards, such as the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal and the Leo Baeck-Preis of the Central Council of German Jews.

### LITERARY AWARD FOR RABBI BLUE

The 1976 Jewish Chronicle Book Award of £250 was bestowed on Rabbi Lionel Blue at the National Book League for his book on Jewish theology "To Heaven with Scribes and Pharisees". One of the judges, author Gerda Charles, referred to him as the "Jewish Betjeman" for his sense of humour.

### WORKSHOP in ACTION

Else Meyer-Lissmann who came to this country from Frankfurt as a refugee and who has since become widely known for her introductions to Glyndebourne opera and other musical seminars, took over the Purcell Room for a demonstration of the success of her Opera Workshop. Her enthusiasm and wealth of ideas inspired even the less gifted among her pupils to give of their best in a programme including arias from Verdi, Beethoven and Wagner operas.

### Obituary

#### MR. S. D. CRAMER

Mr. S. D. Cramer died at his home on March 9, 1977, at the age of 83 after a short illness. This was undoubtedly for him the greatest blessing in his long and active life for he was, of all people, one who would have suffered deeply from prolonged illness and incapacity. He was in his office the day before his death.

Mr. Cramer came from a well-known and respected Frankfurt family and was already a successful businessman when he emigrated in 1933. From the time of his arrival in this country his full life was divided into three main streams—a thriving business, love and patronage of the arts and philately and a deep caring for his less fortunate fellows. He was a founder member of Self Aid of Refugees and became its chairman in 1964—a position which he filled with wisdom, dignity and compassion until his resignation last year when he was unanimously elected Joint Honorary Chairman with Sir Siegmund G. Warburg. He was also an interested member of the A.J.R. since its inception. It is surely for these high services that he would most wish to be remembered and this we do in paying tribute to him today. He was, however, above all a man deeply devoted to his family to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

S.R.T.

### VERY IMPORTANT

Members of the AJR and their families and friends are urgently invited to the

## COMMEMORATION MEETING

FOR THE SIX MILLION JEWISH MARTYRS OF NAZISM

on Sunday, 24th April, at 3 p.m.  
Adelphi Theatre,  
Strand, W.C.2.

Speaker:

The Rt. Hon. HUGH FRASER, M.P.

Readings and Choral Recitals

The AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of the function

Further details are published on page 10

### The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

invites members and friends to the

## GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, May 17, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House,

9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3  
(Side Entrance)

#### I

Report on AJR Activities

Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive will be published in the next issue. Members who wish to propose candidates for the Board should write to the General Secretary by the end of April; the nomination of younger members would be particularly welcome.

#### II

MELVYN CARLOWE

Executive Director of the Jewish Welfare Board

will speak on

NEW TRENDS IN SOCIAL WORK

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

### CLUB 1943

Vortraege jeden Montag um 8 p.m. im Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3.

18 April. Dr. Bruno Halpern: John Maynard Keynes.

25 April. Egon Larsen spricht ueber sein neues Buch: "Weimar Eyewitness".

2 Mai. Ruth v. Schulze Gaevernitz: Die Gruendung von Alexandria und die Uebersetzung der Bibel in das Griechische.

9 Mai. Dr. F. Hellendall: Lieder u. Gedichte von Bertolt Brecht. Rezipitationen auf Grammophonplatten.

16 Mai. Charles Guttman, J.P.: The Jewish Wit.

23 Mai. Cl. Kryslar: Adventures with Minerals. An illustrated lecture with slides and gemstones.

30 Mai. Dr. Ellen Kessel-Ruhemann: Die schoensten Bilder von meinen Reisen (Slides). Mitgliederversammlung. Wir bitten um rege Beteiligung.



F. Reinach

## A VISIT TO GERMANY

Several years ago I had been invited by the Society of Christians and Jews of my native town to speak to them on a subject of my choice. Psychologists may have their own explanation why my trips to Germany are usually postponed at the last minute. However, when this lecture tour finally materialised, it turned out to be interesting and rewarding.

There are forty-five such societies in the Federal Republic and their aim is to give German Jews and Christians alike a better and wider knowledge of each others' religion and cultural background, to eliminate still existing gross ignorance and to emphasise the common origins and heritage of both creeds. In particular, the younger generation have hardly ever met any Jews and readers of this journal need not be told of the dangers of ignorance breeding prejudice and hatred. That prejudice and more or less disguised antisemitism still exist is not only the conclusion of a survey carried out by the Cologne Research Institute for Sociology in 1974-75, but this was also the opinion often voiced in private conversations I had with members of the above mentioned societies. The casual visitor has to rely on such second-hand information in a country where open antisemitism is officially outlawed. However, an instance of such open and very crude antisemitism by some German schoolchildren in a State school in Lower Saxony was given to me, and as the Parents Association of the school to whom this was

reported refused to act decisively, a formal complaint has now been lodged with the Minister concerned.

I spoke at Hanover, Kassel and Marburg, and the subject I had chosen was the Jewish element in the work of Heinrich Heine. This provided an opportunity of speaking about a German-Jewish symbiosis of an earlier age.

From Hanover my journey took me to Kassel, and as this is the town where I was born, the City Fathers gave me a formal, alas a very formal, reception at the Town Hall, the same old Town Hall of Nazi times I could not help reflecting. Speeches were made and in my reply I said I was a child of the much maligned Weimar Republic in which the Jewish cultural influence had indeed been great and that one should be proud of it. In the evening, I dutifully gave my lecture, there were disappointingly few Jewish people there, but some of my former class-mates whom I remember for their Nazi sympathies, came and listened politely and attentively. The number of questions I was asked was small. Was this due to lack of knowledge of the subject? On the other hand, the applause I had from this audience which I hardly knew at all, seemed long and cordial.

On the next day I visited my former school, its Headmaster had invited me to talk to its Sixth Form. Most pupils who could have gone home, as it was 11.30 a.m. on a Saturday, decided to stay on. The subject of my "lecture" was left open, and then it turned out the pupils wanted to know my life story and this led to a spontaneous discussion on the rise of "Fascism", as they saw it, in Germany. These youngsters were intelligent, eager to learn and on the whole more willing to talk than their opposites in an English school. I wondered if they had ever met any Jews, and particularly, Jews of my generation, politically they tended to the left (left of Chancellor Schmidt) as many people in the Land of Hesse do, and from the Jewish point of view there may well be some danger there. Incidentally, one girl student questioned me closely on Heine, as she

is writing a longer essay on the relationship between Heine and Gutzkow, but I would guess that most young people in present-day Germany are mainly interested in contemporary literature.

My next port of call was Marburg, where I had been a young student just before 1933, and it was a real joy to see again its medieval timbered houses whose beauty I had almost forgotten. Where there was once the University building, there is now just the Faculty of Divinity as the University had to acquire many new sites. I was welcomed by a young professor of the Faculty who is also on the Committee of the Society of Christians and Jews; he spends his holidays excavating in Israel where incidentally, he picked up an American-English accent. The Marburg district once had a sizeable Jewish rural population, but at my lecture, I met only two octogenarian Jewish ladies who had in days gone past lectured at the University, one of them related to me how the Marburg Professor of "Germanistik", Professor Elster, had been made to apologise after 1933 for editing a scholarly edition of the works of Heine. Most of the audience seemed to be religiously or ethically motivated, but I did notice here some younger people who showed a genuine love for Heine's poetry which they know well, and this was also proved by the number and quality of questions.

Sentimental and cultural reasons may well play some part in journeys of this kind, but it seems to me we also have something valuable to hand over to the younger generation of Germans who are now growing up and ask some relevant questions.

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## THE ISRAELI SCENE

### CELEBRATIONS FOR JERUSALEM'S FREEDOM

The crack Israeli troops which achieved the liberation of East Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967 will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Six-Day War by a march through the areas they liberated to the Western Wall. Many ceremonies have been planned throughout Israel to commemorate the events of 1967. There will be thanksgiving services all over the country and open air events in the main cities. A spring art festival will be held in Jerusalem from April 24 to May 20 with distinguished guests from abroad, including Emyl Williams, David Barenboim and many others. The Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra will give a concert on Mount Scopus similar to that given there one month after the Six-Day War, followed by a Son et Lumière Programme at the Wall.

### SOCIALIST LEADERS AT LABOUR CONFERENCE

Three thousand delegates attended the Israel Labour Party Convention in Jerusalem including a number of leading world politicians. Among them were Mr. Willy Brandt from W. Germany, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, Mr. Joop den Uyl, the Dutch Premier and many others. All of them expressed their commitment to Israel, but at the same time urged the Israelis to recognise the national aspirations of the Palestinians.

### VICTIMS OF NAZISM FOR KNESSET

The "Organisation of Jewish Victims of National Socialism" will present its own list of candidates for the Knesset elections. The head of the Haifa Documentation Centre for Nazi Crimes, Mr. Friedmann, has stated that he expects at least 30,000 votes.

### WAGES AND STRIKES

Some 170,000 Israeli civil servants have been awarded salary increases of £49 to £55 per month. Another 77,000 employees in the public sector, including the police, teachers, lawyers, journalists and research workers, have been promised similar increases. This will cost the Government £130 million, about £45 million of which will be recouped in taxation. Israel's 250,000 factory workers are threatening industrial action in protest against the Government's failure to encourage exports by higher wages in the industrial sector. There have been 123 strikes in 1976 which meant a loss of 308,214 working days, 84 per cent more than during the previous year.

### NO JOBS FOR EMIGRANTS

The director of the Jewish Agency has declared that Israelis settling abroad and their children will no longer be employed by the Jewish Agency's offices in various countries.

### A PEACE STAMP

Arab and Jewish children jointly designed three new Israeli stamps on the theme of "Peace". The designs are taken from a book "My Shalom—My Peace" published by the American-Israeli Publishing Company and express hope for the day when all the peoples in the Middle East will live in harmony.

### TRIUMPHANT BASKETBALL TEAM

When the Tel Aviv Maccabi basketball team beat a Russian team in a European cup game in Brussels, this made front-page news in Maariv, the leading Israeli newspaper. When the team returned to Tel Aviv, the city of Tel Aviv gave them the Freedom of the City, and the captain, Tal Brody, was nominated for the National Prize, Israel's highest award. The press called the victory the greatest sports triumph during the existence of the State of Israel.

### NEW SUBMARINE DAMAGED

According to the American magazine "Newsweek", the first of three British-built submarines delivered to the Israeli Navy hit a reef during manoeuvres and is in dry dock in Haifa. Her captain has been sent to Britain for further instruction in handling the craft. The submarine deal was shrouded in secrecy.

In early March two young Israelis who with two others took part in a submarine training programme were killed in a car crash when their hired car collided with a council lorry in a remote corner of Argyllshire in Scotland. They had been at the Campbeltown Nato base and taken time off for a two-day tour of the Highlands. The Israeli Embassy in London issued a statement saying this was a regrettable accident, but there was nothing mysterious about it. The submarine contract with Vickers had been approved by the Conservative Government over four years ago. The Arab League's boycott office intervened with the Foreign Office and gave Vickers an ultimatum to drop the order or lose a contract to build a dry dock in Bahrain. Vickers refused to comply and the Arabs sought new tenders for their dry dock. A Vickers spokesman said: "Our export activities must be co-ordinated with Government policy. We will build for any government provided the Government approve. We have never confirmed or denied that we are building submarines for Israel."

### SHIPPING SERVICES EXPANDED

Zim, Israel's national shipping company, is expanding its container service "Kedem Land Bridge" which offers a road and rail container service linking Haifa and Ashdod with Elat, the Red Sea port. From there Zim maintains regular services to Australia, New Zealand, the Far East, the Persian Gulf and East and South Africa. There are also rail links with Addis Ababa, Mombasa and Nairobi. In 1976 the Land Bridge carried 80,000 tons of cargo. It hopes for 100,000 tons this year.

### ISRAEL'S OWN EFFORTS

Experts at Israel's Haifa shipyards have designed a bigger, faster and more heavily armed missile boat to succeed the Israeli Navy present "Reshev" class. Its weapons will have a 63-mile range.

### ISRAELI FILM ON AMERICAN T.V.

"Orchestra", a documentary film about the Beersheba Symphony Orchestra which is principally made up of Soviet immigrants, was the first Israeli production to be shown coast to coast on American T.V. It was directed by Eli Cohen, a 36-year-old Sabra and a graduate of the London Film School. He has also been a career army officer and an actor. He has said that documentaries should show the truth which would be the best propaganda, but he did not receive sufficient government support because people were afraid that he would disturb "people's cosy images" by being too accurate.

### FIGHT AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

Haifa customs men confiscated 1,000 pornographic magazines in the crew's quarters of a Zim cargo ship which had arrived from north-west Europe. The magazines for which Israelis are prepared to pay up to £6 each in the black market, are officially banned in Israel.

### BUS CONNECTION TO LEBANON

The first regular busline to an Arab country was opened between Israel and Southern Lebanon to enable Israeli Arabs to visit their relatives in that country. The first bus started from Haifa to the Lebanese village El-Klia with 50 passengers.

### DEATH OF FAMOUS CHASID

Rabbi Yisrael Alter, the Gerer Rebbe and famous Talmud scholar, died in Jerusalem, aged 82. Thousands of Chasidic followers and the two Chief Rabbis attended his funeral on the Mount of Olives. In the inter-war years the Gerer Chasidim were pre-eminent in Polish communal and religious life and numbered over 100,000 followers, most of whom were killed by the Nazis. The Gerer Rebbe was known as the "Emperor of the Chasidim".

Rabbi Alter succeeded his father with whom he had come to Israel in 1940, as rebbe in 1948. In his will he appointed his 80-year-old brother, Rabbi Simcha Bunim Alter, an economic expert and Torah sage, to succeed him in office.

### A FORBIDDEN WOMAN MARRIES

In 1973, the Beersheba Beth Din granted a divorce to a Mr. Levy because his wife had committed adultery with a Mr. Sharon and become pregnant. The *Get* which pronounced the divorce, said that Mrs. Levy was "forbidden" to both Mr. Levy and Mr. Sharon according to rabbinical law. Some weeks after the divorce Mrs. Levy gave birth to a baby girl and changed her name to Sharon. Her application to the Israel Supreme Court to have the clause forbidding marriage struck out, was granted, but the rabbinate still refused to allow her marrying Mr. Sharon. As there are no civil marriages in Israel, the couple have now married "according to the law of Moses and Israel" at a private ceremony conducted by Mr. Sharon himself. No rabbi was present. The couple have now applied for the registration of their marriage by the authorities.

### CHASIDIC SCIENTIST

Professor Velvel Greene of the University of Minnesota is spending a sabbatical at the University of the Negev in Beersheba to study infection control. He is a specialist in microbiology and has been an ardent member of the Lubavitch chasidic movement for 15 years. He was enlisted by members of the movement proselytising at Minnesota. During a recent visit to London he said that there was no clash between religion and science and that many religious Jews worked on the American space programme. He added that people were sometimes shocked to learn that he came from such a liberal background that he was not even barmitzvah.

### NEW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Rabbi Rackmann, of the New York Fifth Avenue Synagogue has been elected president of the Ramat Gan Bar-Ilan University. The post had been vacant since 1968.

### NO ISRAELI JETS FOR ECUADOR

America has banned the sale of 24 Kfir military jets to Ecuador which would have brought £10 million to the Israeli exporters, because the sale was contrary to American policy against the transfer of sophisticated weapons to Latin America. American sanction was necessary as the Kfir has an American-made engine. America has also so far refused to proceed with the sale of the powerful CBU 72 percussion bombs to Israel. Shortly before the presidential elections, President Ford had promised delivery.

### HONOURS

Dr. Richard Pokorny (Tel Aviv) has been awarded an Austrian honorary title of professor. Dr. Pokorny was born in Vienna in 1894 and after completion of his studies obtained the doctorates in jurisprudence and in philosophy. After having practised as a lawyer in Vienna, he emigrated to Palestine in 1939. There he has been working as a professional graphologist and psychologist. His publications include the first textbook about graphology of Hebrew handwriting, "K'tav yad w'of" (Handwriting and Personality).



# AJR ACTIVITIES

## MEMORIAL MEETING FOR THE MARTYRS

Sunday, April 24

As readers will see from the announcement published in this issue, the Commemoration Meeting for the 34th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Jewish Martyrs of Nazism will be held on Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m. (doors open at 2.30) at the Adelphi Theatre, Strand, W.C.2. Together with the Polish-Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women and the Zionist Federation, the AJR will again be one of the sponsoring organisations. The main speaker will be the Rt. Hon. Hugh Fraser, M.P. There will also be choral recitals, lighting of the memorial candles and readings.

Members of the AJR and their friends are urgently requested to attend the function, which throughout the years has been a most appropriate and dignified way of paying tribute to the memory of our nearest ones. Admission is free. For reserved seats stamped and addressed envelopes should be sent to: The Secretary, AJEX, 2 Beaumont Grove, London, E.1.

## AJR CLUB'S BRING AND BUY SALE

On February 27 a crowd of more than 185 people scrambled into the hall of Hannah Karminski House to attend the Bring and Buy Sale which, at the same time, was to mark the 21st birthday of the AJR Club. The selling was brisk. Within 3 hours, the food stall was sold out, and the same happened at the Boutique which had to offer the most refined items. Jewellery, leather goods and cosmetics sold like hot cakes. Household goods and garments were in great demand, even the second-hand book stall did well. The result: £910.50 in so short a time.

We are deeply indebted to the organisers, Mrs. Hertha Gelhar and Mrs. Mary Wilson, for their enormous hard work. Our sincerest thanks also go out to all the helpers, happily bringing and selling the goods, and to the donors, who made "This Day" a big success.

Coffee and cake were served in the Club room upstairs, where chattering went on and many visitors enjoyed the reunion with friends and acquaintances whom they had not met for years.

MARGARET JACOBY

## IN MEMORY OF HANNAH KARMINSKI

80th Anniversary of her Birth

On April 24, Hannah Karminski would have celebrated her 80th birthday. She was one of those rare women who combined human kindness with strength of character and whose deep religiosity was reflected in her deeds. In spite of never ending work, she never seemed rushed, and people who asked for her advice immediately got the feeling that their problems really mattered to her. The AJR named its house at 9 Adamson Road after her, and there could not have been a more fitting memorial for Hannah Karminski.

There will probably still be a number of former members of the "Jüdischer Frauenbund" and of other sections of the Jewish community, as well as colleagues of the Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland and personal friends, who remember Hannah Karminski with gratitude and love. Although she had visas for several countries, she stayed behind in Berlin as she wanted to help others—and this she did untiringly and selflessly. In 1942, seriously ill, she was arrested as a hostage and died on the transport to a concentration camp. In the AJR Club a wonderful picture of hers adorns the room, and one still seems to derive encouragement and comfort by just looking at it.

D.S.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge; any voluntary donation would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

### Birthdays

The AJR Club extends its heartiest congratulations to Mrs Jeannette Basson, who was such a friendly and devoted hostess, on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

The AJR Club also extends its congratulations to Mrs Alice Glas on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Fabian.—Mrs. Frieda Fabian, of 1 Elmcroft Crescent, London, N.W.11, a faithful member of the AJR since its inception, will celebrate her 80th birthday on April 14. We extend our sincerest congratulations to her.

### Deaths

Baer.—Mrs. Nelly Baer, of 95 Lindsay Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, for many years the Secretary of the Belsize Square Synagogue, died on March 10, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by her sister and family in Israel and by her many friends.

Black. — Julia (Juscha) passed away peacefully on February 25 in her sleep. In loving memory John, Juliet, Hazel, Rosl, George and relatives.

Heller.—Mrs. Gertrude Heller, of Reading, Berks, originally from Hanover and later resident of Minneapolis, Minn. died in Reading on March 3 in her 86th year. Deeply mourned by her son, Peter Heller, daughter, Mrs. Lisa Klein, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jessel.—Dora E., of 34 Buchanan Road, Walsall, peacefully, following a short illness, on March 2. The beloved wife of Leon and mother of Arnold and mother-in-law of Julia.

Kraus.—Mrs. Elizabeth Kraus, of 12 Sloane Court East, London, S.W.3 passed away on February 23, aged 82.

Schrotter.—Dr. Therese Schrotter, wife of Dr. Bruno Schrotter, Dental Surgeon, passed away on February 15 after a long illness. Mourned by her family, friends and patients.

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### Miscellaneous

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## INFORMATION REQUIRED

### Family Tree Search

Hess, Philadelphia.—I am interested to complete the family tree and am, therefore, trying to find the descendants of Moses, Maron and Abraham Hess, born 1784, 1790 and 1792 in Trunstadt, near Bamberg, Germany, emigrated beginning of 19th century, respectively Adolf Hess and his brother. Could any readers who know particulars about them and/or his family please give details to Frederico Hess, Moesliweg 30/8, 3098 Koeniz/Be. Switzerland.

### Personal Enquiries

Barker.—Fritz Barker (formerly Putter) from Berlin, electrician. Address wanted by his cousin, Edgar Cohn, formerly Berlin, now residing in Asuncion/Paraguay. Replies to Peter Johnson, 290 Grove End Gardens, London, NW8 9LL.

Eichelgruen.—Would anyone knowing the address of Lotte Eichelgruen kindly contact Betty Baer (née Evans) at 52 The Ridgeway, Watford, Herts.

Rappaport.—Miss Tony Rappaport (Vienna) is wanted by Mr. Emil Spiegel. Phone 01-904 8367.

Schauer.—Doris and Annie, née Schauer (Weinhandlung Bruex, Czechoslovakia). Please contact Mrs. M. Goldman (née Ehrlich), of 34-21 78th Street, Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y. 11372.

### A.J.R. Enquiries

Israel.—Miss Ruth Israel. Last known address: 32 Oslo Court, London, N.W.8.

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## TV PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

ITV's "Weekend World" recently screened interviews with the Israeli Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin and with President Sadat of Egypt. Mr Rabin said that the central issue for any peace negotiations was the Arab refusal to accept Israel as a sovereign State. He added that Israel rejected the idea of a Palestinian State in addition to Jordan and wanted to retain Sharm-el-Sheikh and the approaches to it to ensure the freedom of the sea routes to her oil supplies. President Sadat accused the interviewer Mr Mick Evans, of taking the Israeli view. He said that full diplomatic relations could not be forced on sovereign Arab States, and it was the Palestinians who needed guarantees, not the Israelis who had the guarantee of the big powers. He was, however, prepared to say that Egypt would not attack Israel, but maintained that it was Israel which had started the last three wars against the Arabs.

Thames TV has just concluded an agreement with Jordan to make a multi-million pound documentary on the "struggle of the Arab people for independence during the First World War. The programme controller of Thames TV is Mr. Jeremy Isaacs, a Jew. The documentary serial will be shown in the Middle East, in Europe and the US.

BBC TV has also shown a number of programmes of special interest. Isaac Stern, the great American violinist, reported on the work of the Jerusalem music centre which he helped to found in 1975. Vervon der Heydt, a half-Jewish refugee from Berlin, described how she overcame Nazi-induced hatred and isolation after being analysed by C. G. Jung after the war. During March, the programme "It's My Belief," first shown as a children's serial, was repeated on Sunday nights. One part of it had an Orthodox Jewish boy, Jacob Jackson, explain to the children from other faiths how he prepared for his barmitzvah and answer questions on details of Jewish beliefs. Being the son of a rabbi, he coped with them very well, but it seemed a pity that he was ignorant of modern developments both in Christian and Jewish theology which stress Jesus' Jewish background.

Finally, in the "Open Door" Programme, the BBC made amends for the much discussed aggressive pro-Arab discussion shown some weeks ago. The Anglo-Israeli Friendship League was responsible for a programme "To

Live in Peace" which was presented by Mr Patrick Cosgrave, former editor of the "Spectator" and now adviser to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and Mr Paul Johnson, former editor of the "New Statesman." It was a dignified and restrained answer to the wild accusations of the pro-Arab programme. Archdeacon Witton Davies who lived in Israel at the time of the foundation of the State, recalled how, in spite of Israeli assurances of friendship, Arabs had left voluntarily explaining to him that they would return a few weeks later to destroy the new State. Even when that attempt had failed Israel offered to take back a hundred thousand refugees, but only 50,000 returned who had since enjoyed all the privileges of full citizenship except membership of the Armed Forces. All those appearing on the programme, and they included both Labour and Conservative MP's, journalists and members of a kibbutz, stressed Israel's desire for peace, as did one Arab member of the Knesset. An eminent heart specialist, Dr Borman of the Hadassah Hospital, said that at his hospital open-heart surgery was performed free of charge on about 200 Palestinians—a one-way traffic in humanity. Labour MP, Eric Heffer said that the idea of Socialism which was generally thought to be impossible to realise, permeated the whole of Israeli life, because the pioneers from Eastern Europe who had started to clear swamps and deserts and to make things grow, had been socialists and had helped to create the most democratic society in the world. There was no limit to the good it could do to the entire Middle East if lasting peace was to be achieved. M.P.

### THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

**Film Nostalgia.** Last month, the London National Film Theatre presented outstanding German films of the Twenties and Thirties. They included "F.P.I. antwortet nicht" with Sybille Schmitz, Hans Albers and Peter Lorre, and the cheerful musicals "Amphytrion" (Willy Fritsch, Adele Sandrock) and "Der blonde Traum" with Willy Fritsch and Lilian Harvey. Even if they did not come up to present technical standards, the films evoked many happy memories and resulted in a get-away from the troubles of every-day life.

**Max Reinhardt Exhibition.** The Max Rein-

hardt exhibition, recently shown in Vienna and Salzburg, gave a full documentation of Reinhardt productions. The highlights included scenes from "Die schöne Helena" (London 1932) as well as a photograph of the operetta's 1944 production with Jarmila Novotna.

**50 Years ago.** Franz Werfel's drama "Paulus unter den Juden" was first performed at the Vienna Burgtheater in 1927 with an outstanding cast of which Paul Hartmann (88) is now the only survivor.

**Birthdays.** Willy Domgraf-Fassbaender, the Aachen-born lyric baritone who reached the height of his career in Berlin and Salzburg, celebrated his 80th birthday. His daughter Brigitte Fassbaender is a popular mezzo-soprano in present-day Germany. In California, Professor Carl Ebert, the former German producer and opera manager, celebrated his 90th birthday. In Darmstadt from 1927-31 and in Berlin from 1931-1933, Ebert's work conformed to a high standard of acting and producing. He refused to continue work under the Nazis, and his subsequent activities enriched the stages of Florence and Buenos Aires. He produced operas in Glyndebourne, in Turkey and in the United States where he now lives in retirement.

**The Wagner-Problem.** The "Studies about the Bayreuth Festival," published by Boss, Regensburg, once more describe the German nationalist background of the Wagner clan whose catchphrase "All for Art" did not disguise the family's antisemitic tendencies long before Hitler came to power. S.B.

**Stoppard's "Travesties" in Germany.** After the German-language premiere at the Vienna Akademietheater, Czech-born author Stoppard's play "Travesties" started a triumphant round of the German-language theatres, translated by Hilde Spiel who returned to Austria from Britain after the war. In Vienna, Aldwych producer Peter Wood directed, in Zurich Leopold Lindtberg.

### STEFFI RONA-WALTER 70

The actress Steffi Ronau-Walter whose career began at the Lobe Theatre of her native Breslau and who worked for the Berlin Jewish Kulturbund until it was forcibly closed down in September 1941, celebrated her 70th birthday. She stayed in hiding during the war, and resumed her career after 1945 with great success, both in the Berlin Theatre and on television.

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## Letters to the Editor

### DANK AN BOTSCHAFTER VON HASE

Unser Freund Herbert Sulzbach, der, wie unsern Lesern bekannt ist, seit der Wiedereröffnung der diplomatischen Beziehungen zwischen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Grossbritannien ein Amt bei der Deutschen Botschaft bekleidet, hat uns den folgenden Brief zur Verfügung gestellt, in dem er einige Erlebnisse aus seiner Zusammenarbeit mit Herrn Botschafter von Hase, der zu unser aller Bedauern aus seinem Amt ausscheidet, schildert.—Die Red.

In den sieben Jahren seines Waltens habe ich Herrn von Hase (meinen fünften "boss") vielleicht besser kennengelernt als manche unserer grossen Belegschaft. Für seine Einstellung zur jüdischen Situation mochte ich nur folgende Beispiele anführen:

Als ich vor ein paar Jahren das Buch "Deutschland ohne Juden" erhielt, photokopierte ich eine Seite, von der ich annahm, dass sie den Botschafter interessieren würde. Ich erhielt meinen Begleitzettel mit der Bitte zurück, ihm das ganze Buch auf seine Kosten zu besorgen.

Als vor ein paar Monaten auch wir die Schmaehschrift "Did Six Millions really die?" erhielten, bemerkte er in der Morgenbesprechung zu uns allen, wie furchterlich diese Neo-Nazis (in diesem Falle nicht deutsche sondern schwedische, englische und amerikanische) handelten und fügte hinzu: "Die furchtbaren Jahre 1933-45 werden noch für eine sehr lange Zeit ueber uns haengen. Darüber muessen wir uns klar sein".

Charakteristisch für den Menschen von Hase ist auch seine Freude am Lachen, seine legere Art—und seine Besorgnis um England, das er liebt. Seine Popularität reicht von hochgestellten Persönlichkeiten des englischen öffentlichen Lebens bis zu den Bobbies, die unsere Botschaft bewachen.

Beispielhaft für seinen Humor ist auch die folgende Episode: Während eines Dinners zu Ehren des britischen Botschafters in Bonn,

Sir Nicholas Henderson, brach ein Feuer aus, und die Gäste mussten 40 Minuten das Haus verlassen und auf dem Belgrave Square auf und ab gehen. Als das Essen wieder aufgenommen wurde, sagte Herr von Hase: "Sir Nicholas, we wanted to give you a warm send-off, but you know, we Germans always overdo it".

Wenn jemals das Sprichwort, dass jeder Mensch zu ersetzen sei, unrichtig ist, so ist es in diesem Falle. Herr von Hase ist für uns, für mich, für uns alle unersetzlich.

HERBERT SULZBACH

### MATERIAL ON ANTI-NAZIS

Sir,—I have been a writer and freelance journalist for more than 20 years and published many books and articles as well as plays for the French radio.

Right now I am working on a book about German anti-Nazis and anti-Fascists, especially during the years 1919 and 1939. As the publication is not meant to be a historical work but a kind of reportage about that period, I am especially interested in obtaining personal testimonies and reminiscences from people who came from Germany and who have directly or indirectly resisted Nazism and Fascism (also after their emigration) or been in contact with active anti-Nazis and anti-Fascists.

In case there are any of your readers willing to help me by answering some questions, I would be grateful if they contacted as soon as possible either Mr. R. W. Stent, 24 Thorn Tree Court, Park View Road, London, W5 (Tel. 01-998 7939) or myself, Eva Steintal-Dessarre, 11 rue Condorcet, 94800 Villejuif, France (Tel. 726 55-32).

I shall certainly be in London at the end of April and may then proceed with some interviews. May I thank in advance any of your readers who are prepared to lend me their co-operation.

EVA STEINTAL-DESSARRE

### "THE GREAT PARADOX"

Sir,—In his letter published in your March, 1977 issue, Dr. W. Breslauer seems to be labouring under a misapprehension concerning my book "Revolutionary Jews from Marx to Trotsky". He reduces its contents to the simplistic formula that most leading socialist Jews were antisemites and then criticises this as an over-generalisation. But it is Dr. Breslauer who is generalising, since I confine myself to carefully documented individual case-histories of leading and representative Jews in the history of modern socialism. I present the evidence and allow the reader to draw his own conclusions about a topic that has been taboo for far too long. The object of my study was to explain the paradoxical fact that Jewish participation in revolutionary movements so frequently (but not invariably) led to a denial or repudiation of Jewish identity. This was clearly brought out in Eva Reichmann's very perceptive and thoughtful review in your December, 1976 issue.

(Dr.) ROBERT S. WISTRICH

4 Devonshire Street,

London, W1N 2BH.

(The correspondence is now closed.—The Ed.)

### ARCHITECT OF HANNAH KARMINSKI HOUSE

#### F. H. Herrmann Jubilee Exhibition

To mark the produce of 50 years' work by the architect F. H. Herrmann, an exhibition was held at the Royal Institute of British Architects in Portland Place. Mr. Herrmann started his career in Germany in 1927 and came to this country in 1935. In 1967, he was elected president of the Institute of Registered Architects. The exhibition was opened by Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy, and the exhibits testified to the wide range of Mr. Herrmann's works. When the AJR Charitable Trust acquired the property of 9 Adamson Road, until then used as a boarding house, it commissioned Dr. Herrmann with the complicated work of adapting the building to the needs of the Communal Centre, now operating under the name Hannah Karminski House.

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