

# AJR

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

Margot Pottlitzer

## REFUGEE INDUSTRIES IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

### A Proud Record

In the last few years, students and scholars both in this country and abroad have been showing a great interest in the experiences of Jewish refugees. In the AJR we are constantly asked for material on the refugee situation by eager German students who want to write a thesis on certain aspects of refugee life, very often, in keeping with modern trends, with a bias towards sociology. One aspect, however, has so far been completely neglected, even though in one way or another, it is frequently referred to in the press: the contribution Jewish manufacturers and industrialists have made to the economic life of this country. Many of them met with public recognition: some of them have been made life-peers, awarded the OBE or the Queen's Award for Export, but no attempts have so far been made systematically to study their history and development.

For this reason alone, it is greatly to be welcomed that one of them has made a beginning with a research into the history of Refugee Establishments in the North of England. Mr Herbert Loebel, OBE, B.Sc. has submitted a thesis to the University of Durham on "Government-Financed Factories and the Establishment of Industries by Refugees in the Special Areas of the North of England 1937-1961". Unfortunately in its present form this result of over three years of thorough investigation is unlikely to be seen by a wider public: as a thesis it fills 345 closely-typed pages with the addition of an annex of documents of the period covered. In order to provide the background for his specific material, Mr. Loebel had to include a great deal of general history which has been researched and published elsewhere: the trend of persecution in Germany, the result of Nazi rule in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, the development of special legislation in Britain, the internment syndrome and many other details of refugee history. It seems feasible and highly desirable to me to publish an extract from the thesis, containing the valuable research Mr. Loebel has done, whilst reducing the general background content to a minimum, thus making the study available to a wider circle of readers, and perhaps stimulating similar research for the other "special areas", i.e. Wales, Scotland and N. Ireland.

In the course of his investigations, Mr. Loebel met with a difficulty with which anybody who has tried to research aspects of refugee history is only too familiar, the scarcity of source material. Once their original aim was achieved, government and private organisations and committees destroyed much invaluable source material, often because of lack of space, but sometimes from sheer ignorance of the importance of such material. In

view of these difficulties, Mr. Loebel has done very well and has saved some documents from oblivion which would certainly have been lost or destroyed over the next few years. It is therefore all the more important that somebody should undertake a similar task in other areas. This also applies to what is perhaps the most valuable part of the thesis: the collection of case histories of firms. 40 firms, founded by refugees, still existed in the North East on 1 November 1974, the key-date chosen by Mr. Loebel, another 13 in West Cumberland and another 22 had closed down, but some information about them (and the reason for the close-down) was still available. Incidentally the choice of key-date was probably a very fortunate one, because the recession which still exists, started at about that time to enforce greater changes in industrial life than had occurred in the previous period.

#### Depression in the Thirties

The special areas under investigation were the result of an earlier depression: the world trade recession and the ensuing unemployment which helped to put the Nazis in power in Germany, had affected British industries in certain areas with equal severity. The decline of certain main industries, combined with the progress of mechanisation and a reduction in exports led to exceedingly high unemployment figures in parts of the country which had hitherto relied on single industries such as coal-mining, ship-building, steel and engineering. 50,000 miners were out of work in 1934. Expanding industries employed comparatively few people. Between 1923 and 1929, unemployment in Great Britain varied from 9-11%, on the North East coast it was 13-16%. In 1933 it had risen to over 30%. Unemployment benefit for single men over 21 was 17/- (85p) per week. After 1934, the Government set up special areas legislation, aimed at attracting new industries to the depressed areas. As far as British industrialists were concerned, the scheme had little success. They were in a position to open factories in sites which opened good trade outlets and working possibilities. For refugees it came at the right time.

Before 1937, German-Jewish businessmen and industrialists who wished to use their existing connections to settle in England, were still able to take some of their money and equipment with them; after 1937 and especially after the 10th November, 1938, it became impossible. Comparatively few had come to England in the early days, and old-established firms in particular were hoping against hope to be able to continue in Germany. As this hope dwindled, they desperately looked for

a chance to continue abroad. North Eastern Trading Estates Ltd., had been set up by the British Government in May 1936. Others followed soon. They had one aim in common: to diversify industry in areas of high unemployment, and for this purpose government-built factories were offered for rent and loans made available to persons newly setting up business in these areas, provided that they employed at least 10 persons.

At an early stage in the development of the refugee problem, the British government indicated that the door was wide open to anyone wishing to set up a factory in Britain, particularly in areas of high unemployment. By February 1939, the Home Office reported that 300 such factories had been opened by aliens, mainly refugees. Mr. Loebel has come across an extraordinary letter from the Ministry of Labour to the Home Office which states that the needs of public policy were sufficient "to justify any steps . . . to induce foreign firms to establish themselves in areas of high unemployment . . . There might be objections to pressing the statutory powers of the Aliens Order to the length to refuse permission to a foreigner to establish himself in the UK solely on account of the proposed situation of his factory, but advantage should be taken of these powers to persuade employers in the desired direction . . . In response to any enquiry by a foreigner as to permission to come here and set up a factory, the earliest opportunity should be taken of raising doubt whether permission will be given if the foreigner proposes to establish his factory in London or the Home Counties . . . There may be a few cases in which the employer refuses to accept the advice given, and it may be that in such cases you might not be able to withhold the grant of permission. The probability, however, is that the general policy will become known and foreigners will be induced to act accordingly, without any pressure or persuasion." Mr. Loebel comments that this letter was indeed extraordinary because it suggested that the Home Office should pretend to powers it did not possess and that few foreigners would dare to call the bluff. Even if in the event the Home Office did not accept the suggestion, it remained official government policy to direct refugee firms to distressed areas, and permission to settle was granted more readily to those who accepted the direction.

At the same time, as Mr. Loebel also points out, many British officials abroad were greatly affected by the people knocking on their doors to obtain permission to settle in Britain and went out of their way to help them with advice, and often helping them to obtain loans or other assistance. The case histories show what happened after their arrival. Asked how much capital the original founder had at the beginning, many stated: Funds small, others indicated sums between £100 and £250,000, the latter being the one glaring exception. There was indeed diversification of industry after their arrival. Their products included

Continued on page 2, column 1

## Refugee industries

Continued from page 1

all sorts of clothing and knitwear, chemicals, paper and cardboard articles, buttons, leather goods, pressed steel radiators and many others. It is impossible, tempting though it may be, to give details of the struggle of the original founders, the effects of war, internment, and temporary expulsion on the development of their work, this has to be read in detail to do justice to Mr. Loebel's assiduity. Many of the firms no longer belong to the original founder or his family, quite a number have been taken over by large concerns. The most important of them is the firm founded with a small capital by Lord Schon's father "Solway Chemicals Ltd" at Whitehaven, Cumberland which is now part of the Albright and Wilson Group, employed 2,300 persons on the 1st November 1974 and had a sales volume of £40 million in that year.

Details such as these abound in Mr. Loebel's book, and as previously said it is to be hoped that it will soon be published in a more accessible form and will be followed by a few more by other researchers. It is a well-known fact that German Jews have always had a strong sense of history and that quite a few individual refugee firms have written histories of their own development for a limited circle of readers. It might be a worthwhile task for a student of economics, or as in Mr. Loebel's case a retired industrialist, to collect and research this particular source of refugee history which will otherwise disappear like so many other documents of intrinsic value.

### ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY

In connection with the pending efforts of the great engineering firm Guest Keen & Nettlefolds (GKN) to acquire the leading German clutch and shock absorber firm Fichel & Sachs, the "Sunday Times" of March 5 carried a detailed description of the achievements of our friend and long standing supporter, Mr. Mac Goldsmith (Leicester). "Without him", the paper writes, "Sachs would not be what it is now, turning out 60 million clutches a year, employing 16,000 people and selling £250 million of car, engineering and bicycle parts a year".

In the 1920s, at the request of the late Ernst Sachs, Mr. Goldsmith, who had developed a special type of car clutch, used one of Sachs' empty factories and transformed Sachs into one of the biggest component firms in the industry.

In 1937 Mr. Goldsmith came to England and launched two companies: British Bundy Tubing which produces copper-coated steel tubing, used in practically all cars and refrigerators, and Metalastik Limited in partnership with the John Bull Rubber Company, Leicester.

Later he acquired Precision Rubbers Limited, a company producing very high-grade rubber components for the aviation and other industries and he then formed the John Bull Group of companies which in 1958 became part of the Dunlop Group.

After his retirement he continued as a consultant for Dunlop for a number of years.

"It was, or rather is still, quite a retirement", adds the article, enumerating the manifold public and Jewish causes with which Mr. Goldsmith is associated. As a "parting thought", the "Sunday Times" refers to the fact that Mr. Goldsmith, who is also an honorary doctor of laws of Leicester University, is an immigrant.

### ISRAELI FIRM WINS ORDER

The Israeli firm Elscint which established a subsidiary in Crawley, Surrey, three years ago, won an order for a body-scanner from the Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, against competition from Britain's EMI and an American firm, Ohio Nuclear. The scanner, which allows complicated internal investigations without surgery, was preferred because of its faster scan and picture reconstruction time.

### BIAS ON RADIO AND TV ?

Anglo-Jewish organisations reacted angrily to a Thames Television 50-minute long report "A Land without Peace" presented by Jonathan Dimpleby and producer David Elstein. It glorified the PLO, called Israel's retaliatory action in Lebanon a callous "blitzkrieg" on innocent civilians and blamed the tragedy of the Palestinians on the Jews. Dimpleby described the Lebanese as "the latest victims of a conflict which began 30 years ago when refugees from a Holocaust who were Jews, made refugees of a nation who were Arabs". He also said the PLO were the representatives of the people of Palestine, though this has never been tested by democratic methods. He referred to the PLO as "freedom fighters" and "guerillas" and said that after the Tel Aviv massacre and the Israelis' retaliatory action, their morale and prestige were higher than ever before and their will "eternal". He mentioned the Tel Aviv attack only once and added that "reports from Israel support the PLO claim that most of the victims were killed by panicky Israeli police". The Board of Deputies protested through the chairman of its radio and TV committee, Mr. Victor Mishcon, recently made a life peer, who expressed the deep resentment and hurt felt by members of the Anglo-Jewish community and said there had been previous protests by the Board of Deputies because of Mr. Dimpleby's and Mr. Elstein's pronounced pro-Arab bias. He quoted examples of the friendly and supportive treatment Yasser Arafat and everything related to the PLO received in contrast to an atmosphere of overt or suggested criticism of everything connected with Israel. The Zionist Federation asked for an interview with Mr. Brian Young, director of IBA (Independent Broadcasting Authority), saying that while Mr. Dimpleby was entitled to his opinions and their expressions, the question was whether they should be presented as information.

Mr. Abba Eban, Israel's former Foreign Minister, took exception to a programme in the "Week-end World" series in which he himself appeared and which was entirely devoted to "Israel's invasion" of the Lebanon and its impact on Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. An anti-Zionist Israeli, Mr. Moshe Machover, now resident in Britain, quoted the Bible as evidence that the Lebanon was included within the frontiers of an Israel aiming to restore her historical boundaries. Britain's leading pro-Arabist, Mr. Christopher Mayhew, claimed that the Palestinians wanted a peace settlement. Mr. Eban retorted that in that case they should have supported President Sadat's initiative.

During a broadcast in a LBC (London Broadcasting Company) phone-in, George Gale, the writer and broadcaster, was asked by a caller: "Do you think the media are biased against Israel?" In his reply, Mr. Gale said that all the British press with the exception of "The Times" had a pro-Israeli slant because there were a lot of Jewish reporters working in London. The Board of Deputies protested to Mr. Keith Belcher, programme controller of LBC, but was not satisfied with his reply which said Mr. Gale's remarks were not raising a myth, but a matter of simple observation. It was surely correct "for a man who sees all the newspapers and their activities to point this out to a public which by and large reads only one daily newspaper and thereby misses the broader view". Many listeners protested against Mr. Gale's remarks. In answer to a question by a Jewish woman caller on a subsequent programme, Mr. Gale said he was neither pro-Arab nor antisemitic. He would not call himself a pro-Arab journalist and if he had to live in the Middle East, he would rather live in Israel than in an Arab country.

The Independent Radio News editor, Mr. Peter Thornton, issued new rules for the use of the words "terrorist" and "guerrilla". He said: "Once any group commits an act of terrorism against the civilian population, they are to be referred to as terrorists". Mr. Peter Rosier, public relations officer for BBC-TV news and current affairs, said: "If there is an attack on defenceless civilians, whoever makes it is a terrorist".

### VANESSA REDGRAVE'S FILM

A National Film Theatre showing of Vanessa Redgrave's film, "The Palestinians", led to stormy scenes. Mr. Roy Battersby, the director, accused a leading Herut member, Mr. Ronnie Jacobs, of being a "Nazi bigot" and claimed that the reason his film was not generally shown, was: "You know who owns the cinemas". Adrian Turner, of the NFT, named Lord Grade and Lord Delfont. Many people walked out of the theatre during the three hours' showing. In the film, Miss Redgrave asks a child: "Who is your enemy?" and the child replies: "The Zionists, not the Jews". She also says: "Zionism is a threat to all ordinary people in the world". One scene of the film shows a Palestinian camp "Tel Zaatar" besieged and eventually captured by Christians in the recent Lebanese Civil War, when many Palestinians were killed. Mr. Battersby remarked: "We know that the people who dropped bombs on Tel Zaatar were trained in Israel or Lebanon by Israelis. Israel is on its last legs". He added that he had wanted to make a film in Israel, which he had never visited, but had been refused co-operation by the Government. A spokesman of the Israeli Embassy explained that both Mr. Battersby and Miss Redgrave had been told that they were free to visit the State and film as they liked, but in view of their declared support of the PLO, the Government was not prepared to grant them the sort of facilities they required. Mr. Battersby also said he gloried in the Arab massacre near Tel Aviv and was "unbelievably proud of the operation". Mr. Battersby also said that after the PLO led by Arafat had established a secular democratic State in Palestine, Jews who did not support PLO policy would be deported.

Following Vanessa Redgrave's outburst against Zionism at the Hollywood Oscar ceremony, Mr. Daniel Janner, son of Labour M.P. Mr. Greville Janner, withdrew an invitation to her to speak in a Cambridge Union Debate.

### DISTORTIONS IN B.B.C. FILM

A BBC-TV film "The Warsaw Ghetto" shown here in 1968 and 1973, and at present circulated in the U.S., was attacked there by Professor Lucy Dawidowicz, of Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women who said that it gravely distorted historical reality by including Nazi still photography and film footage faked for Nazi propaganda purposes. She said that in spite of its unobjectionable intentions, its overall effect was to elicit disgust and revulsion at the Jewish victims and not at their Nazi persecutors. The BBC was not to blame for the film's shortcomings, but it should not be shown to Jewish and other organisations in the United States.

### BANNED PAPER RE-APPEARS IN LONDON

"AL-SABAH" (Morning) an ultra-nationalist Arab-language newspaper, suspended by the Jordanian Government in 1975, has resumed publication in London. On the front page of the first issue, there is an open letter to President Sadat with the sub-title "The hand which brings evil to Palestinians must be cut off". The letter says inter alia, that pro-Israel Ugandan officers, and not Israeli commandos, killed the "Palestinian fedayeen" (freedom fighters) at Entebbe and continues: "Israel whom Sadat dreads and venerates, cannot annihilate the fedayeen".

### FRANKIE VAUGHAN JOINS ANTI-RACISTS

Frankie Vaughan, the entertainer, joined the West Yorkshire Anti-Nazi League and said in a meeting: "I am a Jew, born and bred. Every Jew is dedicated to fight anything that is racialist. It's in our history."

### "CHILDREN OF GOD" SPREAD HATRED

The Board of Deputies has protested to the Attorney General about leaflets distributed by the "Children of God" sect in London and Essex, calling for the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people and condemning nations and organisations friendly to Israel.

## HOME NEWS

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

Life Peerage for Victor Mishcon

Mr. Victor Mishcon, chairman of the Board of Deputies' radio and television committee, and Deputy Lieutenant for the County of London, was made a life peer. His late father, Rabbi Arnold Mishcon, was minister of the Brixton synagogue for 21 years.

## New Name for CBF

The Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation, set up in 1933 to concentrate the assistance given to victims of Nazi oppression in Germany and since then active in all parts of the world where Jewish groups and individuals needed assistance, has decided to change its name to "World Jewish Relief" (WJR) in order better to convey its basic purpose. Its first-year target under its new name is half-a-million pounds to finance social welfare programmes outside Britain and Israel.

## B'nai B'rith's new Flatlets Scheme

The B'nai B'rith Housing Society has broken new ground by providing 25 flatlets for younger single people at its Princes Park Avenue development in Golders Green to accommodate 129 people. This scheme is adjacent to 68 single and double flatlets to house 95 elderly people, including five for disabled people. At the topping-out ceremony, Mr. Fred Worms, chairman of the society, said the entire scheme, one of the most ambitious of its kind, would be completed by October. The Department of the Environment is providing more than 90 per cent of the £1.2 million contract cost and the purchase cost of the two-acre site, part of a converted convent, on a 60-year mortgage. Mr. David Stern represented the architects at the ceremony. One of the blocks will be named after the Rosenthal family who left the whole of the residual estate to the B'nai B'rith Housing Trust. There is already a long waiting list for the flatlets for which the heavily subsidised rent will start at £10 per week.

## Long Waiting lists for Old Age Homes

According to Mr. Melvyn Carlowe, executive director of the Jewish Welfare Board, six organisations, including the AJR, had waiting lists for admission to old age homes totalling 614 people. More day centres, meals on wheels and sheltered housing were needed to help old people maintain their independence longer. As people were living longer, the demand was constantly increasing.

## Help for Jewish autistic children

A Jewish Autistic Society has been established with headquarters at 140, Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middlesex, to satisfy the needs of autistic and other handicapped Jewish children, to provide a counselling service and to set up residential and day centres for Jewish autistic children.

The London Board of Jewish Education has provided Jewish deaf children with a special education in Hebrew in Kenton, Ilford, and Wanstead. The classes are taken by qualified Hebrew teachers with specialist training.

## First Woman Rabbi in Dublin

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, daughter of our members Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schwab, was the first woman rabbi to visit the Dublin Jewish Congregation where she officiated at the Shabbat services, at a brit mila and a marriage ceremony.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR THE MARTYRS  
Sunday, May 14

As readers will have seen from the announcement published in this issue, the Commemoration Meeting for the 35th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Martyrs of Nazism will be held on Sunday, May 14, at 3 p.m., in the Cambridge Theatre, Earham Street, W.C.1. For the first time, the address on behalf of the sponsoring organisations will be delivered by a spokesman of the AJR, our Chairman Mr. C. T. Marx. The main speaker will be The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, Q.C., Member of Parliament for Hendon South. There will also be choral recitals by the King David Youth Choir and lighting of memorial candles. Rev. Simon Hass will sing the El Molej Rachamim.

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. For reserved seats, orders (with stamped and addressed envelope) should be sent to: The Secretary, AJEX, 5A East Bank, London, N16 5RT.

## SPEAKER IN TEARS AT YAD VASHEM

When Mr. George Thomas, M.P., the Speaker of the House of Commons visited the Yad Vashem Memorial to Martyrs and Heroes in Jerusalem during his recent tour of Israel, he burst into tears and said, "This is too much for me. I cannot take any more". Mr. Gideon Hauser, the museum's director, immediately led him away from the concentration camp exhibits to the ghetto and partisan resistance sections. During his four-day stay, Mr. Thomas met Mr. Begin, President Katzir and Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem, and gave a talk to the Knesset on the role of the Speaker in the House of Commons.

## NAZI DAUBINGS

Fourteen swastikas and slogans, including "Adolf was right" were daubed on the Muswell Hill home of Mrs. Pauline Naidoo, following her writing a letter to "Radio Times" headed "Should we really stop pursuing war criminals?" In it she spoke of the "terrible danger of whitewashing Nazi crimes" which could create the kind of climate "in which a Nazi revival could flourish". She also received a number of abusive phone calls.

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## ISRAEL'S SUPPORTERS IN PARLIAMENT

A survey conducted by the public relations department of the Zionist Federation seems to indicate that pro-Israel M.P.s outnumber pro-Arab M.P.s by more than five to one. Of 422 M.P.s, about two-thirds of the membership of the House of Commons, 354 are listed as pro-Israel and 68 as pro-Arab. Of the pro-Israel M.P.s 153 are Labour, 184 Conservative, 10 Liberal, the rest belong to other parties. The pro-Arabs include 51 Labour, 16 Tory and 1 Liberal. 112 are members of the Conservative Friends of Israel, 101 of the Labour Friends of Israel and six of the Liberal Friends. Of the 95 Labour Ministers, 39, including seven Cabinet members, are pro-Israel, while the Shadow Cabinet has eight pro-Israelis among its 19 members. The authors of the survey add a warning, however, that in practical politics sympathies do not always influence the voting.

A parliamentary motion, condemning both Israel's action in Lebanon and the P.L.O. terrorist attack which preceded it, attracted more than twenty signatories, including three members of the Friends of Israel, but not the more vociferous pro-Arabs like Mr. Andrew Faulds who probably objected to the inclusion of the P.L.O. action. In a subsequent debate, Mr. Faulds said: "Is it not a measure of the arrogance of Zionism that the new Nazis in Israel, in an act of State terrorism, have launched a force of 24,000 men into a neighbouring country occupying further Arab territories from which they will not withdraw?" Mr. Callaghan, the Prime Minister, said this was a matter of opinion. He himself did not share that opinion.

The Foreign Secretary, Dr. David Owen, said in an address to the National Union of Students, the National Front and its thugs represented the kindergarten stage of racialism, of which Belsen and Dachau were the full conclusion. There was no solution to racialism except to reject it. During his recent visit to Israel, he had been shown the Yad Vashem, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority which was a poignant reminder of Hitler's final solution. Racialist outbursts, whether against black or brown people or Jews, tarnished Britain's image.

Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., said at the 30th anniversary dinner of the Anglo-Israel Association at London's Savoy Hotel, the Palestinians had as much right to a homeland as the people of Israel, but the P.L.O. and other terror forces prevented an independent Palestinian State. Something like the recent terror attack would become a daily event if there was a P.L.O. Government on the West Bank.

Lord Glenamara said at a meeting of the Labour Friends of Israel it was a tragedy that the Party's Student organisation had joined the pro-Arab Labour Council for the Middle East. The pro-Arab lobby in Britain was becoming more effective because it could rely on vast support from oil-rich countries while Israel had to curtail her expenditure on information activities.

## NAZI EXHIBITION AT WAR MUSEUM

The Golders Green Branch of South Hendon Labour Party has condemned the exhibition of Nazi memorabilia, set up at the Imperial War Museum with the support of the Board of Deputies as "distasteful". Among the exhibits are Hitler's bed sheets, a book bound in human skin and a bar of soap made from human fat. Dr. Noble Frankland, the director of the museum, has assured the Board of Deputies that the "German Exhibition 1870-1945" will not depart from a strictly historical and objective line. This meant that as far as Nazis were concerned, "the criminal bestiality not only of their philosophy, but also of their actual practice must be shown. Any other kind of rendering of Nazi history opens the danger of their uniforms and insignia being seen as heroic and admirable... we cannot afford to pretend that Hitler and the ideas he stood for did not exist".

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Carter Aide Resigns in Protest

Mr. Mark A. Siegel has resigned as White House liaison officer with the American Jewish community, because, as a strong supporter of Israel, he found his task of explaining President Carter's policy to many groups of Jewish leaders increasingly difficult. He met with a very angry reaction by 1,000 young United Jewish Appeal leaders whom he was sent to address. He also disagreed with Dr. Brzesinski, the political scientist who is the President's national security adviser and who started a delegation of Jewish Federation leaders by saying that American and Israeli interests were not parallel but divergent.

### Rabbi in House of Representatives

Hungarian-born Rabbi Dr. Henry Kraus delivered the opening prayer at a House of Representatives session on April 4, the 34th anniversary of his deportation to Auschwitz together with his congregation, when the Nazis marched into Hungary. He was later transferred to Buchenwald and liberated by the American Army in 1945. From 1945-1956 he was Chief Rabbi of Western Hungary, but he left the country during the revolution and is now minister of a Conservative temple in California.

### Jewish Woman Ambassador

Mrs. Geri Joseph, wife of Mr. Burton M. Joseph, a businessman and chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, has been appointed US ambassador to Holland. She is a journalist and active supporter of the Democratic Party.

### A Jewish Choir from Belgrade

Miss Breda Kalef, the prima donna of the Belgrade opera, is touring the United States and Canada with the Brothers Baruch Choir, formed in 1952 from the remnants of the Serbo-Jewish Choir and named after two Jewish brothers who became Yugoslav war heroes. The Yugoslav Government, the Serbian Republic and the city of Belgrade are subsidising the tour.

## CANADIAN SEPARATISTS ATTACK ISRAEL

Jewish organisations have protested to the Quebec Press Council against an article in the separatist periodical "Ici Quebec" which called Israel "a dagger in the heart of the Arab world" and alleged that the Jews themselves had been responsible for injecting Jaffa oranges with mercury in order to discredit the Palestinians.

### MEXICAN OIL FOR ISRAEL

Mexico has informed the Israeli government that it is prepared to supply Israel with all the oil the country needs (ten million tons per year).

### NEW JEWISH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

At a Congress of European Jewish students in Grenoble, a new European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) was set up by 100 representatives from 15 countries, including Israel. Their programme includes fighting against Zionism at universities, expanded summer programmes in Israel, and a one-month course of intensive Jewish studies.

### CAMPS

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## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney Synagogue Centenary

A number of distinguished Australians attended the centenary thanksgiving service of the Sydney Great Synagogue at which the preacher was the Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits. There have been Jews in Australia since 1788, and the first convict ships had between eight and 14 Jews among their 751 passengers. Only in 1820, a German-born convict, Joseph Marcus gathered some 30 Jews together for occasional religious services. In 1826, Philip Joseph Cohen, a free settler with a good Jewish education, arranged for regular services in his house and conducted the first Jewish wedding. A Jewish congregation was finally established in 1832 under the presidency of Joseph Barrow Montefiore. There were a few splinter groups, but eventually the Great Synagogue was opened in 1878 and remained the only permanent Sydney synagogue. One of its present ministers is Rabbi Raymond Apple who emigrated from this country some 20 years ago.

### Appeal for Jewish Museum

During his Australian tour, the Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits, launched an appeal for a Jewish museum in Melbourne as suggested by Rabbi Lubofsky of the St. Kilda congregation who is a life-long collector of Judaica. There is also a cultural society "Kadima" whose members have thousands of documents and other unique material in their private possession. A centre for Jewish music and a section on the History of Australian Jews are also planned.

### LISTS OF JEWISH GRAVES IN HOLLAND

The Semitic Institute of Groningen University is compiling a list of some 11,000 tombs in the provinces of Groningen and West Friesland in Western Germany. The tombstones, the texts of which are to be translated into Dutch, are regarded as important historical sources. The inscriptions will be recorded in twelve books the first of which, with the text of some 400 tombstones, has already been presented to Rabbi Berlinger of Utrecht.

### ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI HONOURED

The Melchite Synod in Lebanon conferred the honorary title of "Bishop of Caesarea and Palestine in Exile" on the Greek-Orthodox Archbishop Capucci who was released from an Israeli prison at the special request of the Pope last year. He had been sentenced for smuggling terrorist weapons into Israel.

### THE JEWS OF ETHIOPIA

Representatives of the Falasha (Beta Israel) community in Israel were cheered when they attended a World Sephardi conference in Jerusalem for the first time. They said that together with immigrants from Soviet Georgia they want to join the Sephardi Federation. There are about 28,000 Beta Israel in Ethiopia where they have preserved their Jewish identity for many centuries.

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## FRANCE

### Israel Friends in French Parliament

In the recently elected French National Assembly, two of the 31 deputies for Paris are Jews. They are Mr. Gerard-Claude Marcus who was re-elected and Mr. Jean-Pierre Pierre-Bloch, son of the president of the League against Antisemitism and Racism, who was newly elected. 87-year-old Mr. Marcel Dassault who presided at the first session of the Assembly, became a convert to Christianity 15 years ago, but remains on good terms with the French Jewish Community. Four good friends of Israel who were re-elected are General de Benouville, Mr. Jacques Medecin, Minister for Tourism and Mayor of Nice, Mr. Defferre, the Socialist Mayor of Marseilles and Mr. Abel Thomas, one of the founders of the France-Israel Friendship Association.

### Art Gift for Rashi's Birthplace

The city of Troyes where Rashi, the greatest bible commentator of all time, was born, has received more than 2,000 objets d'art from Mr. Pierre Levy, a textile magnate from a well-known Lorraine Jewish family who has lived in Troyes for over 50 years. His collection includes paintings by Picasso, Modigliano, Soutine and Derain and will be housed in a new museum to be named after him. He befriended the painter Derain in Troyes and bought about 100 of his paintings.

### POPE'S BIAS RESENTED

Israel's Ambassador in Rome, Mr. Zeev Shek, expressed to the Vatican his Government's "astonishment at the biased and unbalanced" statements made by the Pope after recent events in Israel and the Lebanon. After the Fatah attack when 37 people died, the Pope had expressed "his heartfelt participation in the sorrow" of the Israeli authorities and the victims of the "very grave terrorist act in Tel Aviv". After the Israeli march into Lebanon he said he was "deeply saddened by the large number of victims caused by Israel's indiscriminate bombings among the unarmed population of refugee camps and Lebanese towns". Yasir Arafat, the head of the PLO, sent the Pope a message of thanks for his remarks.

### RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS MEET IN ANTWERP

More than 1,000 delegates from extreme Right-wing groups in Europe and the United States attended a neo-Nazi rally at Antwerp. They included a delegation of National Front and British Movement members from this country. Many participants wore jack-boots, black shirts and swastika armbands and gave the Nazi salute. The leader of the West German delegation brought a copy of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" for Bert Erickson, the head of the Belgian Flemish Military Order which had organised the rally.

### JEWISH SCIENTISTS REVISIT MOSCOW

A group of Jewish scientists who emigrated from the Soviet Union, will return to Moscow in August for an international genetics congress. They include Mr. Alexander Goldfarb, who was allowed to leave Russia in 1975 and who now works as a biochemist at the Weizmann Institute.

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Alice Schwab

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS

### Jewish Artists of Great Britain 1845-1945

There is no such thing as Jewish art, despite Cecil Roth's weighty tome on the subject but, as the Duke of Edinburgh almost said, "any excuse is good enough for an exhibition", especially one of such outstanding quality as this. The exhibition of Jewish Artists now at the Belgrave Gallery (Motcomb Street, S.W.1) and later to move to Bradford, does enormous credit to its organisers who have been at great pains to discover and bring together highly important works by Jewish artists who have lived and worked in Great Britain.

As with any cross-section of the Jewish population, many of the artists in this representative collection were of foreign origin or ancestry. Even Sir William Rothenstein, member of an illustrious family of artists, was of German Jewish origin, although baptised early in life. His interest in Judaism is, however, clearly expressed in his sympathetic picture "The Reading of the Book of Esther", one of several paintings he made of the Machzike Adass Synagogue, Spitalfields in the East End of London. The same can be said for the illustrations for the Hagadah executed by his younger brother Albert Rutherford. Jankel Adler's highly symbolic picture "The Priest", one of several by this great artist in the exhibition demonstrates the Jewish influence on his work. Adler spent a large part of his formative years in Germany where he both studied and exhibited; he was much influenced in his thoughts by his friend Martin Buber.

It is a pity that only one of Martin Bloch's works is shown, and that a not very exciting still life, but there are three powerful animal bronzes by George Ehrlich, the Austrian artist who lived in England for many years. It cannot have been easy to find a way to exhibit the work of Hans Feibusch (born in Frankfurt) since his name is so closely associated with murals; however, an interesting sketch of a mural of "The Resurrection" gives an indication of the quality of his work. The exhibition also contains two characteristic pictures by Fred Uhlman, the Stuttgart lawyer turned painter.

An exhibition of this size cannot possibly include works by all the artists who would qualify and it is a pity that there have had to be some noticeable omissions, for instance, Erich Wolfsohn, the noted Berlin artist whose work is now enjoying a revival in this country. Nor, in the space of this review is it possible to describe all the works so excellently displayed in the gallery.

### Art in Religion

Many great artists have been inspired by religious themes. The very interesting exhibition "Art in Religion" at the Fieldborne Galleries, Queens Grove, N.W.8 attempts to draw together the ideas of the dominant faiths in a series of paintings, sculptures, drawings and graphics by living artists. Whether such a bold concept succeeds in a relatively small exhibition must be left to the viewer, but Mr. and Mrs. Sternfeld have managed to assemble many fine works touching on this theme. The exhibition is well arranged and includes several works by Norman Adams, both Richard and Nancy Carline, the Saul and David lithographs by Kokoschka, a fine oil by Rosoman and three works by Professor Carel Weight. The bronze resin sculpture of Jacob and the Angel by Kormis is particularly attractive, as is his terracotta figure of The Sacrifice.

### Herman Nonnenmacher

Herman Nonnenmacher is exhibiting his work in the Hall of the University of London Institute of Education, 20, Bedford Way, Russell Square, W.C.1. The drawings are all of hands and those done between 1977 and 1978 are particularly interesting. His bronzes, also mostly of hands, are most remarkable. Of the watercolours, there is a striking picture done in 1951, but the most recent examples are also very pleasant.

### H. G. Adler

### POESIE DER FAKTEN

Von allen Grundarten der Literatur leidet seit 1945 zumindest in den westlichen Laendern die Lyrik am meisten unter der Ratlosigkeit, wie sie sich als Kunst bewahren und rechtfertigen soll. Das gilt in besonderem Masse fuer die deutschsprachige Lyrik, weil hier zumeist—zumindest ausserhalb der Schweiz und der Emigration—die Freiheit und autochthone Selbststaendigkeit nicht nur der Lyrik, sondern aller Literatur in Frage gestellt oder ueberhaupt verwehrt war. So bemuehte man sich nachzuholen, was in anderen Sprachen seit zwolf Jahren, ja oft betrachtlich laenger versucht worden war, wobei man aber, gar als das Reimgedicht als "unzeitgemaess" so ziemlich aufgegeben wurde, die Formprobleme der lyrischen Dichtung gewoehnlich aus den Augen verlor und meist ueberhaupt nicht mehr erkannte oder, schlicht gesagt, nicht mehr kannte. Dazu kam auch noch eine Unsicherheit in der Frage, was denn eigentlich Gegenstand eines Gedichtes sein koenne, duerfe und solle.

In diese Lage ist das Schaffen der heute bis Fuenfzigjaehrigen in der Dichtung und unter ihnen auch das Werk des ueberaus ernsten und bemuehten Arno Reinfrank geraten, der sich in jungen Jahren als wegen

seiner teilweise juedischen Abkunft in Deutschland Verfolger und stark von juedischem Denken mitgepraegter Charakter in England niedergelassen hat. Abgestossen von jeder leichtfertigen Schreibart, aber auch von einem gefaelligen Epigonentum heute fragwuerdiger dichterischer Werte und thematischer Vorwurfe suchte er in einer "Poesie der Fakten"—er meinte damit in erster Reihe in unserer Zeit als wissenschaftlich erhaertet geltende Tatsachen, vor allem naturwissenschaftliche Tatsachen—einen festen Grund fuer sein zweifellos aufrichtiges und urspruengliches dichterisches Wollen zu finden.

So ist nach frueheren Werken auch Reinfranks neuer Gedichtband "Feuerbefragung/Poesie der Fakten 3" (Delp Verlag, Muenchen 1977) zu verstehen, in dem er bisher der Lyrik nicht erschlossene Themen zu gestalten versucht. Das ist sicher ein richtiges Vorhaben, dessen Berechtigung einzig und allein davon abhaengt, ob es dem Autor gelingt, seine Aussage so von jeder blossen (keineswegs an sich zu verachtenden, sondern erforderlichen) Berichterstattung ins Lyrische zu transzendieren, dass das Ergebnis kuenstlerisch befriedigt, also als ein bestimmtes dichterisches Vorhaben geloest ist. Fuer die von Reinfrank gewaehlte Problemstellung ist das freilich aussordentlich schwer zu erzielen und erfordert ein Koennen, das kaum gegenueber der tief sinnigen Gedankenlyrik sogar eines Goethe, der sich gerade in dieser Gattung nicht nur zeitlosen sondern durchaus zeitlichen Aufgaben gewidmet hat, weit zurueckstehen darf. Dessen ist sich Reinfrank bewusst, wenn er selbst in einem Gedicht sagt: "Die Sprache/Kupplerin zwischen Gefuehlen und Gedanken, bereitet heute den Poeten Schwierigkeit beim Sichtbarmachen, (. . .)" In dieser Richtung liegt auch die im Gedicht "Eruptionssignale"—einem der bedeutendsten in dieser Sammlung von 33 meist sorgfaeltig durchdachten Stuecken—vorgetragene Einsicht: "Wir brauchen, um den Neugewinn an Sicherheit/nicht durch Legendenmangel zu gefaehrden,/ein ganzes Volksbuch voller rationaler Sagen, (. . .)" Aber sind Sagen rational oder nur rational?

Es erhebt sich die Frage, ob lyrische Dichtung je vollkommen rational ist oder dies auch nur sein kann. Zu der gegenueber konkreten Fakten abstrakten lyrischen Ueberhoehung gehoert es auch, dass ein Element des Geheimnisvollen zu der sachlichen Bekanntgabe der Fakten hinzutritt und alles zusammen vollwertig als lyrische Aufgabe geloest wird. Es waere ungerecht, dies angesichts der allgemeinen Verwirrung rechter Einsichten in diese Probleme von einem seiner Aufgabe so hingebungsvoll dienenden Autor wie Reinfrank allzu streng zu fordern, der gewiss zum richtigen Weg hinfindet, die etwa sein Gedicht "Verzahnungen" beachtlich erfuellt, wo von einer zerbrochenen Uhr, dem Geschenk der Mutter, die Rede ist: "Der Uhrmacher verspricht mir Troestung./Er oelt im Sichtbaren das Unsichtbare,/fuer es feingefeilte Raedchen ein/ und holt den Tag, die Nacht und die Sekunden/ aus den Ellipsenlaeufern in die Feder".

### MENDELSSOHN PRIZE 1978

This year's Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Prize for gifted young musicians was awarded to the 25-year-old Japanese singer, Keiko Hibi (Stuttgart) and the 26-year-old organist, Harald Feller (Munich). The endowment was created 100 years ago by an agreement between the Mendelssohn family and the Prussian State. It was operating until its suspension under the Nazis and re-established in 1963.

EGL

### The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

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## GENERAL MEETING

on Thursday, May 25, 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  
is published on page 11

### II

#### Mr. MARTIN SAVITT

Chairman of the Defence and Group  
Relations Committee of the Board  
of Deputies

will speak on

### THE WORK OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES' DEFENCE COMMITTEE

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

# BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO DR. CURT SILBERMAN

## DR. CURT C. SILBERMAN AT 70

On May 23, 1978, Dr. Curt C. Silberman, the president of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, New York, will celebrate his 70th birthday. His career in his native Wuerzburg and in the United States, where he arrived following the Kristallnacht and a short internment, exemplify a central social law of our group of immigrants—fidelity to a tradition of great value that is being transformed by dynamic adaptation to the requirements of acculturation.

Dr. Silberman's roots, like those of his family, reach into the Jewish folk culture of rural and small-town Southern-German Judaism, a Jewish milieu and a milieu Judaism so strong that they had their equals in Germany only in the folk culture of Posen or Silesia. When the Nazis arrived and destroyed his promising career as a lawyer and a potential teacher of the Law, the young Referendar, an alumnus of the Blau-Weiss and the Jung-Juedischer Wanderbund, entered upon the double career that would remain the pattern of his life: service to the Jewish community and an abiding professional involvement in the Law in its social and political service to individual and community. Besides being emigration and foreign currency specialist during the Nazi period, Dr. Silberman, in 1935, was elected to the Gemeindevorstand in Wuerzburg on both the liberal and Zionist ticket, a constellation characteristic of the vision of a unified Jewish communal responsibility that remained his trademark throughout his career.

In the United States, Dr. Silberman continued to pursue his dual interests and commitments. Admitted to the Bar of the State of New Jersey, and to practise before the US Supreme Court, he succeeded in building up a successful law practice and gained wide recognition as chairman of the Committee on Comparative Law of the Bar Association of New Jersey, and a specialist in international corporation law. There are numerous individuals who owe Dr. Silberman the kind of personal legal counsel that remains one of the humanising sides of the legal profession in an increasingly depersonalised society.

There followed a record of outstanding service to the Jewish community. As a consultant and director of émigré services, Dr. Silberman assisted many Nazi persecutees in finding the first rungs of the ladder to future social and cultural integration. As long-time president of the Jewish Unity Club of Newark, N.J., he has gained wide recognition as commentator and guide through the political vicissitudes of Jewish life in the post-Holocaust period. Through a wide-ranging lecture activity he has become a leading interpreter of the lessons of Jewish experience in Germany for world Jewish life. Within the immigrant community he gave unstintingly of his time and knowledge to the social agencies serving the newcomers, the poor, the elderly and the sick. Under his presidency since 1963, the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe has successfully entered upon the difficult task of making the concerns and, ultimately, the conscience of the Jewish immigrant from Germany part of the American-Jewish scene, and develop a political concept of Judaism that has made the organisation an effective force in organised Jewish life. His unwavering support of such cultural agencies as the Leo Baeck Institute and the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration is imbued with the same spirit of care for the preservation of an important Jewish heritage.

The wide circle of co-workers, colleagues and friends which Dr. Silberman owes, above all, to his rare qualities of understanding and generosity in personal and communal matters, wishes him many years of undiminished vigour in the pursuit of his self-chosen commitment to service to his fellow-men and the community.

HERBERT A. STRAUSS

## GLUECKWUNSCH DES "COUNCIL"

Als langjaehriges Mitglied des Praesidiums und seit 1974 Joint Chairman des Council of Jews from Germany, hat sich Dr. Silberman mit grossem Erfolg der Aufgabe gewidmet, die Verbindung zwischen den Organisationen der aus Deutschland ausgewanderten Juden in der Welt lebendig zu erhalten und ihre gemeinsamen Interessen wirksam zu vertreten. Seine vielseitige Erfahrung, die Anerkennung und Wertschaetzung, die er sich in allen Kreisen im oeffentlichen juedischen Leben durch sein Auftreten und sein Wirken erworben hat, oeffnen ihm den Zugang zu den fuer uns wichtigen Persoenlichkeiten und Organisationen, und er setzt sich mit Entschiedenheit fuer unsere Sache ein, wo immer es erforderlich ist. Jeder von uns, die wir nun seit langem mit ihm zusammen arbeiten, ist ihm dankbar fuer seine stete Hilfsbereitschaft und schaezt seinen klugen Rat, seine Initiative und sein abgewogenes Urteil.

Wir wuenschen ihm noch viele Jahre in Schaffenskraft und Frische an der Seite seiner Gattin und im Kreis seiner Familie, sodass wir auch weiterhin in freundschaftlicher Zusammenarbeit mit ihm fuer die uns gemeinsamen Aufgaben erfolgreich wirken koennen.

HEINZ GERLING (Jerusalem)  
Joint Chairman

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. MARGARET JACOBY

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we paid tribute to Mrs. Margaret Jacoby on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Now, on May 22, she will be 96. Yet, in spite of a recent serious operation, her youthful energy is undiminished, and so is the devotion to her work, especially for the benefit of the AJR Club. Those of us who were present at our Board meeting in January, were, as every year, impressed by her report on the widespread activities of the Club under her guidance. Since then she has, among other things, organised a most successful Bazaar, about which we reported in our previous issue. It is our sincere and not quite unselfish hope that she may go on in good health for a long time to come, and in gratitude and affection we wish her and us many happy returns of the day.

## CLUB 1943

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

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 8. May   | Peter Seglow, M.A., "The Future of Broadcasting".  |
| 15. May  | Grete Sachs: "Nancy Astor, the first Woman M.P."   |
| 22. May  | Esra Juermann: "Alte Uhren".   |
| 29. May  | Bank Holiday.  |
| 5. June  | Dr. Hans J. Dunker (First Press Counsellor—Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany): "Der Einfluss der Media auf die Deutsch-Britischen Beziehungen". |
| 12. June | Walter Lewis: "The Prime Minister of Israel, Menachem Begin".  |
| 19. June | Ruth v. Schulze-Gävernitz: "Gerhard v. Schulze-Gävernitz. Die Freisinnigen, Christlich-Sozialen und Sozialdemokraten. Der Reichstag von 1912".           |
| 26. June | Egon Larsen: "Amnesty International". (Zu der Veroeffentlichung seines neuen Buches).  |
| 3. July  | Dr. Kurt Pfluger: "Der Teufel".  |

Am 15. Juni findet der Ausflug des Clubs nach Leeds Castle bei Maidstone (Kent) statt.  
Baldig Anmeldungen erbeten an Frau Grete Sachs.

## DR. GEORGE WEIS 80

On May 28, Dr. George Weis will celebrate his 80th birthday, and this is a welcome opportunity to pay tribute to the splendid record of this remarkable man. Before the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, he was a very successful and highly regarded lawyer. He emigrated to this country, and in 1944 joined the Jewish Relief Unit which in the wake of the Allied Armies went to Germany to bring help to survivors. As legal adviser of the Unit, he was concerned with the establishment of the legal framework for the newly formed Jewish communities in the British Zone. Among his major achievements was the establishment of a law which fixed May 8, 1945 as the presumptive date of death for all those victims of the camps for whom no exact date could be found. This law has greatly helped when, as Dr. Weis envisaged, restitution was finally legalised. In 1948, after a short spell with the Joint Office in Paris, he joined the managerial staff of JRSO, the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation, set up for the recovery of heirless and communal Jewish property in the former American Zone of occupation in West Germany and Berlin and became director of JRSO's Berlin office, a particularly difficult assignment.

In 1956, he accepted an invitation to become manager of the first Austrian Assistance Fund for Emigrants ("Hilfsfonds"). The skill and the speed with which he managed its affairs in succeeding years brought about his appointment as manager of the Austrian Property Restoration Fund ("Abgeltungsfonds"), the so-called "Hilfsfonds II" and the "Collecting Agencies A and B" (i.e. the Austrian Successor Organisations for heirless Jewish and non-Jewish spoliated property). That this appointment extended to the non-Jewish property, was an acknowledgement of his strict impartiality.

Dr. Weis' activities brought him high honours. He was awarded the Austrian *Grosse Ehrenzeichen*, and, even more remarkably, he was appointed a Commendatore of the Papal Order of St. Silvester in recognition of his successful recovery of valuable Church property which had been confiscated by the Nazis.

When congratulating Dr. Weis on his 75th birthday in the May issue 1973 of this journal, we mentioned that, as the work of managing the various funds was nearing completion, he could now devote himself to the study of the history of restitution in the past. (He later published a well-researched booklet on the subject). However, soon afterwards he became involved in negotiations with the Austrian government about setting-up yet another fund, this time to assist not only emigrants, but Nazi victims in general. These were particularly arduous negotiations, because the Austrian Government insisted that beneficiaries of the fund should only be persons living in "straitened circumstances", a condition both difficult to define and even more difficult to apply. It illustrated the high esteem in which Dr. Weis is held, that the Austrian Government, while stipulating that the chairman and at least half the members of the Governing Body should be Austrian nationals, this did not apply to the key position of Manager with the clear intention to keep this appointment open for Dr. Weis, a naturalised British subject. He was in fact unanimously appointed Manager of the "New Hilfsfonds" by both the non-Jewish and the Jewish members of the Kuratorium, the governing body.

To all the traditional good wishes for his birthday, we add the wish for the best of luck in his present assignment which so heavily taxes his great abilities, his lawyer's acumen and his ingenuity. May he have the satisfaction of seeing his perhaps most difficult task in Vienna successfully accomplished! C.I.K.

# THE SHADOW OF THE SWASTIKA MOST OBITUARY

A few weeks ago, BBC-TV produced two programmes which were much discussed among our friends and one of which is still the subject of heated discussion in West Germany. "Before Hindsight" once more explained to those of us who wondered at the ignorance of most British people about the events that had driven us from Germany, how the media dealt with the Third Reich. Very few newsreels showed what was going on and some of those who did, were suppressed for fear of giving offence. The ones that were shown, made fun of SS men goose-stepping and played down any reference to atrocities. G. B. Shaw was seen talking of "a very intelligent gentleman called Adolf Hitler". Only after 1936, newsreels sometimes admitted that Hitler did evil things, but this applied mainly to his dealings with other countries.

The Panorama broadcast "Turning a Blind Eye to Murder" is the one that is still debated in Germany. It revealed not only the extent to which Nazi crimes remained unpublicised, but also the fact that a great number of those responsible for them have remained unpunished and now occupy high positions in the economic life and even in politics in the Federal Republic. A member of the Federal Parliament, in private life a grammar school teacher, Karl Heinz Hansen, has spoken out against this state of affairs for the last ten years. He and Bernt Engelmann, a well-known campaigner against neo-Nazism, said on the programme, there had been a failure to clear out former Nazis after the last war. Because of a "biological amnesty", i.e., because most of them had reached the age of retirement, there were no longer former Nazis in active government. De-nazification under Allied supervision had not worked, because only little men had been de-nazified, and the British and American authorities had wanted experienced people, by definition people who had been part of the Nazi administration, to return to office. There had been at least 200,000 of them from judges and policemen to civil servants and industrialists. At least 150,000 Germans had been responsible for 12 million dead, but since 1945, only 35,000 had been convicted. Sir Patrick Dean who was a member of the Foreign Office's war crimes executive, explained that his office had never thought about the matter before the end of the war. The Americans sent at least some 320 investigation officers to their zone of occupation, the British just three. The arrest of war criminals had the lowest possible priority among the British. Early in 1946, the Foreign Office issued precise orders to its staff in Germany to drop all investigations and prosecutions that did not directly apply to British subjects. The Americans followed suit in 1948. Subsequently, 100 convicted war criminals, many of them directly involved in the extermination policy, were pardoned and released. When the Allies handed over authority to the new German sovereign State, they did not ask them to continue to prosecute guilty men and women. Mr. Hansen added that the German Government had investigated 82,000 suspects and convicted 6,000. The statute of limitation would put an end to all new prosecutions next year.

Soon after the Panorama programme, Mr. Hansen was asked to appear before a plenary session of the West German Socialdemocratic parliamentary group. Former Chancellor Willy Brandt and the Minister of Justice, Mr. Vogel, strongly criticised his statements and tried

to refute his allegations that the German Government had never attempted to take over the American Documentation Centre in Berlin which had a wealth of material and personal files about war criminals. The meeting strongly reprimanded Mr. Hansen after a three hours' heated discussion, but he refused to take back his allegations. Soon afterwards the government announced the planned publication of a survey of all its measures to prosecute war criminals.

President Scheel said at a meeting in Wuerzburg, it was high time that young Germans were made aware of Nazi crimes and called for academic research into Nazism. The Bavarian public prosecutor announced that in Munich, investigations against 39 former Nazis suspected of war crimes were continuing.

In Fuerth, Bavaria, a civic committee against neo-Nazi activities was set up after a number of buildings had been daubed with swastikas and cemeteries had been desecrated. The Mayor of the town, Mr. Scherzer, said at a public protest meeting, the whole population was filled with disgust and horror at these vile deeds, in particular at the desecration of 65 tombstones in the Jewish cemetery which included that of a former Freeman of the city, Dr. Koenigswarter, who had been a great benefactor and had donated large amounts of money for social and cultural institutions.

In Muenster, Westphalia, a number of Jewish businesses, the Jewish cemetery, the old town hall and the Institutum Judaicum were covered with swastikas and other Nazi daubings. One hundred and forty-six Protestant ministers who belong to the University of Muenster, declared their solidarity with the Jews of the town and said in a public statement that as theologians they felt obliged to combat all neo-Nazi tendencies and to protect their Jewish fellow-citizens.

Fifty-seven-year-old former SS-leader Wilhelm Eickhoff received a life sentence from the Federal Court of Appeal in Karlsruhe for having participated in the murder of at least 50 Jews in White Ruthenia during the war.

## HITLER FILM FOR SCHOOLS

The German Teachers' and Scholars' Trade Union has protested to the Bavarian Minister of Education about the release of the film "Hitler—A career", based on Joachim Fest's best-seller biography, for use in fifth- and sixth-form history classes. They comment that the film showed neither the social and economic background nor the atrocities committed by the Nazis, but that the crowd scenes showing enthusiastic support for the Fuehrer would probably fascinate young untutored minds.

## 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, 14th May, at 3 p.m.  
Cambridge Theatre,  
Earlham Street, W.C.2.

Speaker:

THE RT. HON. PETER THOMAS,  
Q.C., M.P.

Readings and Choral Recitals

The AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of the function

Further details are published on page 3

## RABBI DR. ELI MUNK

Dr. Eli Munk, the descendant of an old German-Jewish family of orthodox rabbis and scholars, has died in Jerusalem, aged nearly 78. He was born in Königsberg and received his training at the famous Hildesheimer Seminary in Berlin. His father, himself a well-known scholar, was Rabbi Esra Munk, of the Adath Yisroel congregation of Berlin. Dr. Eli Munk, too, held several posts in Berlin and was for some time honorary secretary of the Berlin Shechita Defence Bureau. His doctoral thesis at Marburg University was on "the religious poetry of William Wordsworth". In 1934, he emigrated to Britain where he founded the Golders Green Beth Hamedrash Congregation—still referred to as "the Munk synagogue"—which soon became a rallying point for Orthodox Jews from the Continent who had settled in Golders Green or who came to settle there because of it. He was its rabbi from 1934-1968 when he retired and settled in Israel. Immediately after the war, he went to Germany as a representative of the Chief Rabbi's Council, attached to the Jewish Relief Unit, and worked among the survivors of Belsen. When other survivors of the Holocaust were re-appearing in their former home-towns, he concentrated most of his efforts on them and helped to re-establish many German Jewish communities. At the same time, his brother, Dr Michael Munk, spent some time in Berlin on the staff of the Joint.

## IRENE WELTSCH

The sudden death of Irene Weltsch, wife of our friend and contributor, Dr. Robert Weltsch, has deeply shocked her many friends. Since his days of the *Juedische Rundschau*, she was Robert Weltsch's constant helpmate for whom since their marriage soon after the war, she created the ideal conditions for his continued prolific activities in the Leo Baeck Institute and as a writer. At the same time, she provided the hospitable background which made the Weltsch home at Crediton Hill, London, a meeting place for Jewish scholars, writers and friends both in this country and from all over the world. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

## GERALD REITLINGER

Mr. Gerald Roberts Reitlinger, the writer, artist and art historian, has died in Rye, aged 78. During the war, he kept a diary of world events, and during the Nuremberg trials he decided to incorporate them into a study of recent history. Its title "The Final Solution" has become part of the language. The book was the first major work of its kind and was widely read in this country and in translations abroad. His further works on Nazism and the Holocaust include "The SS—Alibi of a Nation".

## ARTHUR S. DIAMOND

Mr. Arthur Sigismund Diamond who has died at the age of 80, was for 17 years a Master of the Supreme Court of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court. He was also president of the West London Synagogue and chairman of the Council of the Leo Baeck College. In 1955, he became chairman of British ORT which had a deficit of £2,000. When he resigned in 1960, owing to ill-health, its income exceeded £50,000 p.a. He continued to represent Britain on the World ORT board and executive.

## BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### THE MAIDANEK TRIAL

Public prosecutors, judges, jury, and defence counsel at the Maidanek Trial are preparing two trips to Israel, two to Austria and one each to Poland and the USSR to interview witnesses who are unable to travel, and to visit the scene of the murders. For the last few months, witnesses from Israel have been examined in Düsseldorf. For most of them it was an almost unendurable ordeal.

The Israeli Minister of Justice, Tamir, has appealed to the German authorities to speed up the Duesseldorf trial and to see to it that the murderers are punished in accordance with justice and the Law.

### NO CHANGE IN OBERAMMERGAU

Despite many years of protest from Jewish and Church organisations, the newly elected council in Oberammergau reversed a decision by the outgoing council to use a less antisemitic text for the 1980 passion play performances. The text which has been used since 1860 was written by Father Daisenberger, a former parish priest, and the defeated council had tried to replace it by a different one, written by the Benedictine monk Ferdinand Rosner. In 1970, after a strong campaign by Jewish organisations in the United States, a great number of Americans cancelled their attendance. The matter has been inconclusively debated ever since.

### ALBRECHT GOES 70

The Stuttgart writer and Protestant minister Albrecht Goes celebrated his 70th birthday on March 22. Throughout his life, he has maintained personal friendships with many Jews, and he survived the Nazi era without ever stooping to the slightest compromise. In 1934, he established contacts with Martin Buber and maintained a dialogue with him over many years. When Buber received the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade in the Frankfurt Paulskirche 25 years ago, Albrecht Goes gave the laudatory address. For many years he was a close friend of the late Rabbi Dr. Salzberger and his wife, and he came to London when Dr. Salzberger was awarded the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal by the German Council of Christians and Jews. He was awarded the Medal himself for 1978—together with Grete Schaefer, the author of an erudite Buber biography "Hebrew Humanism". In two deeply moving novellas, Goes has described the Nazi terror "Das Brandopfer" (1954) and "Unruhige Nacht" (1951). He has also written about his admiration for Jewish writers and thinkers, from Heine, Rathenau and Rosa Luxemburg to Karl Wolfskehl, Jakob Wassermann, Nelly Sachs and Leo Baeck.

### PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT VISITS BERLIN COMMUNITY

President Professor Carstens of the Federal German Parliament visited the Berlin Jewish community where he was received by its chairman, Mr. Heinz Galinski, who introduced him to the institutions of the Berlin Jews and thanked him for a recent speech, affirming his determination to stifle any signs of a resurgence of antisemitism in the Federal Republic. Professor Carstens replied by thanking the Jews who had returned to Germany for their considerable courage in doing so and in overcoming the memories of a terrible past. He said he was aware of the contribution to German culture which German Jews had made since the days of the Romantic Movement, culminating in the flourishing of art and science in Berlin in the 'twenties which would have been unthinkable without the activity of many highly gifted Jewish citizens.

### FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AND ISRAEL

Franz Josef Strauss, chairman of the Bavarian CSU, said in a press interview that Germany had had a moral duty to support Israel as long as Arab states had declared that they wanted to destroy the state and kill its inhabitants. He had shared this view, but was now convinced that the Arabs were prepared to recognise Israel and to guarantee its safety, and he was prepared to consider their views, too. It would not help Israel to triumph on the battle-field and to lose half of its young generation in the process.

### ISRAELI JEWELLERY EXHIBITED

Dr. Falk, the director of the Pforzheim Jewellery Museum who is a member of the Academic Council of the Jerusalem Bezalel Academy, showed some of the modern exhibition pieces of the Pforzheim Museum at the Jerusalem museum last year. He was so impressed by jewellery made in Israel that he invited Israeli students to exhibit some of their own work in Germany. This exhibition, the first of the Bezalel Academy outside Israel, was opened by the Israel Ambassador. The Pforzheim museum, established in 1961, is the only one of its kind in the world.

### P.L.O. WELCOME IN EAST GERMANY

Kurt Seibt, one of the leading East German politicians, announced in a newspaper article that the solidarity of the German Democratic Republic with the Arabs fighting the Israeli aggressors and their backers would be further reinforced. The G.D.R. has for many years supplied the P.L.O. with clothing, medicines, tents and other goods, and has offered free treatment to several hundred wounded P.L.O. members.

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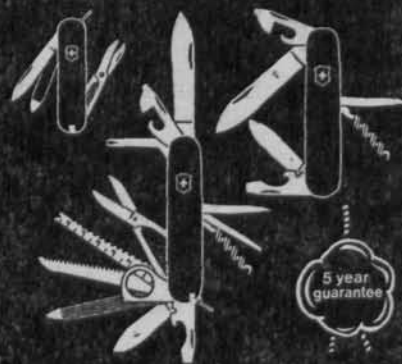
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# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## EGYPT PROMISES DIALOGUE

When the leaders of the Synagogue Council of America which represents all shades of Jewish religious opinion from Orthodox to Reform Judaism, visited Egypt, they were received by President Sadat and Vice-President Mubarek with great warmth and in a "spirit of friendship" as they reported after their return. They met scientists and scholars from Cairo University and were invited to send Jewish scholars to offer courses on Jewish thought and ethics. Cairo University with 120,000 students is the biggest in the Arab world. The Egyptian authorities agreed to return 40 Thora scrolls from closed or disused synagogues to the Cairo Jewish community. Deputy Foreign Secretary Boutros Ghali suggested the foundation of a Jewish national museum in Egypt. A further group of Jewish scholars would be invited to catalogue Judaica and examine former Jewish settlements in Egypt, and an exhibition of Egyptian Karaites documents is to be held in the United States. A Jewish-Moslem religious dialogue is to be held in Cairo this year. The Synagogue Council is the largest Jewish religious organisation in the world and has some three million members.

## PROTEST AGAINST KREISKY STATEMENT

Israel has recalled her Ambassador to Austria, Mr. Doron, to discuss with him an interview which the Austrian Chancellor Dr. Kreisky gave to the Israeli newspaper "Maariv" after the Fatah attack. In it he had said that the Israelis killed by the terrorists were the "innocent victims of Israel's short-sighted policy" and that the PLO had for some years pursued "a rather moderate policy" without resorting to terror.

## NAHUM GOLDMANN'S OPINION

In an interview with the "Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung", Dr. Nahum Goldmann, for many years president of the World Jewish Congress, said it was "complete nonsense" for Israelis to say that they did not want to see foreign soldiers in their country. In his opinion, both the United States and the Russians would be prepared to guarantee Israel's safety and to send troops in her defence. Israel should be neutralised and kept out of all international conflicts. Jews in the Diaspora had been alienated by Israel's failure to make the Jewish State a spiritual centre for the whole of the Diaspora, and for this reason he was more worried about the continued existence of the Jewish people than he had been even in the Nazi period.

## OPEN-AIR CONCERT FOR 10,000 PEOPLE

For the forthcoming thirtieth anniversary of its statehood, Israel is spending nearly £570,000 on parades, exhibitions, concerts and other events round the world, and a further £260,000 is provided by the World Zionist Organisation. The celebrations inside Israel include an official open-air concert in the Birket-el-Sultan, an ancient disused reservoir at the foot of the Old City walls where the violinist Isaac Stern, the cellist Rostropovitch, Itzhak Perelman and Leontyne Price will give performances without charging a fee. The celebrations in Israel will cost some £1½ million.

## ISRAEL'S URANIUM THEFT

There were unconfirmed press reports last year that in 1968 Israeli agents had got hold of a ship "Scheersburg A" which carried 200 tons of Uranium, taken it to Israel and taken off the Uranium before allowing it to continue its journey. Recently the CIA mistakenly released a top secret document which states that the CIA had known from the start what happened, that the Agency was convinced that Israel had nuclear weapons and that Israeli bombers had been observed practising manoeuvres used only by nuclear bombers. When he saw the document, President Johnson instructed the CIA not to show it to his Defence Secretary Mr. McNamara or Secretary of State Dean Rusk. The "Scheersburg" had disappeared between Antwerp and Genoa, and at the time the Israeli Government had denied all knowledge of the theft. In 1973, the Israeli Dan Aerbil, on trial in Norway for murdering an Arab, admitted having taken part in the operation.

## RESTORING THE OLD CITY

During his recent visit to Britain, Mr. Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem, visited York and Coventry to see how old buildings were being restored by combining the old with the new. At a literary luncheon at Marks & Spencer's London head office, he described how, with funds provided by Mrs. Henry Gestetner, he had established a repertory theatre in Jerusalem, one of the best in the country.

## HYPNOSIS AT THE CHESS MATCH

In Beer Sheva, chess grand-master, Victor Korchnoi's secretary, Petra Leeuwerik, has said that she was quite sure that at the recent match with Spassky which Korchnoi won after 18 games, hypnosis was used. At one point, Korchnoi had a complete hallucination which made him lose a game. After the 14th game, a parapsychologist helped him resist the hypnosis. She said that Spassky had studied hypnosis since 1964 and had been known to use it.

## HOTEL MANAGERS NEEDED

In view of the growing importance of the hotel industry for Israel's economy, there is a shortage of suitable trained hotel managers. At present there are 45,000 beds available, but they are not enough for the million of visitors predicted for 1978. This year alone, a number of mammoth hotels will be opened in Tel Aviv, Tiberias and other centres. A special training course has been initiated at the hotel school at the Herzlia Tadmor Hotel where students from abroad are to be housed, taught Hebrew and hotel management and receive a study grant.

## VISIT BY FRANK SINATRA

Film star Frank Sinatra paid a week's visit to Israel to attend the dedication of the Frank Sinatra International Student Centre in Jerusalem.

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## A MESSAGE FROM RUSSIA

The Young Married Group ("A.Y.M.S.") of the Belsize Park Synagogue, under the leadership of its dynamic chairman Mr. John Alexander, raised funds to send two of its members to the Soviet Union in order to meet the families with which the Synagogue has been in touch for some time. One of them, Mrs. Lillian Levy sent us a report in which she says:

"The contact with visitors from the West is enormously important to the 'refuseniks' and I was acutely aware of the way in which some of them were recharged through our presence. One such couple was Olga and Evgeny Kozhevnikov, both actors who do an enormous amount of morale-boosting. They are no longer allowed to work in their profession, but in their living-room they stage a history in poetry and song, telling the story of the pogroms in Russia since 1881 and the yearning of the Jews for Israel. Olga's heart-rending appeal was: 'I am now 31, I want to have another child, but I want it in freedom, not in this prison. I want my child in Israel. . . . We need to know that you have not forgotten us, that you are working for us and that we have good friends outside this prison.'"

Another refusenik, Oscar Mendeleev, has for the last six years applied for and been refused an exit visa for himself and his family, and he has been harassed and ostracised ever since. Mrs. Levy reports that he is a kind, gentle man of 50, a mathematician who is now denied work. He asked for his message to be read during the Seder services of the Synagogue. We are publishing an extract from it below:

"For the first time in my life I have the opportunity to speak to you directly. I feel quite unprepared, but very excited at being able to say openly what I really think. Usually, we can only do this if we are somewhere in a safe place.

"I have been thinking about Jewish history, studying it with the Bible that friends

brought us, and I became sure that history does repeat itself. Seeing what is happening today, we become sure that the events described in the Bible really took place. We learn how people were persecuted and killed; now we have the hypocrisy that people find reasons for persecuting and mistreating us, especially those who have applied to return to their homeland. We Jews in the Soviet Union can well understand the feelings of our ancestors in Egypt, we, too, want to leave, and the more they prevent us, the more we want to go.

"I wish my wife, my children and family and I were free to celebrate the Seder this year and all the Sederim we have missed through no fault of our own. And if, next year, we are able to celebrate the Seder with you, it will be thanks to you and to the support of all our brothers and sisters in the West."

### HEBREW BIBLE PUBLISHED

Nineteen scholars, eight of whom are no longer alive, have contributed to the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* which has just been published by the German Bible Foundation in Stuttgart. Work on the volume began in 1954. The publishers, the largest firm of printers of the Bible in Europe, have printed 8,000 copies which sell at DM 62 (over £15). There was only one compositor available who set up the book and made up the pages. At the age of 52, he started on a three years' course of Biblical Hebrew from which he graduated with distinction. He had previously spent five years setting up the Septuaginta in Hebrew. He had also designed and supervised the production of the actual type. One of the scholars involved spent ten years proof-reading the work as it evolved. The text of the Bible is based on the Leningrad Kodex, written in 1008 and recognised by scholars as the oldest dated manuscript of the entire Hebrew Bible. The cost of the new edition amounted to nearly £250,000, of which £25,000 was contributed from official research funds.

### SIR HANS KREBS HONOURS OTTO WARBURG

Nobel-prize laureate Sir Hans Krebs, Oxford, honoured his teacher Otto H. Warburg, who himself received the Nobel Prize for his work in the field of cell physiology, in a speech at the inauguration of the new library and Archives of the Max Planck Society for the Promotion of Science in Berlin-Dahlem. Sir Hans has written the definitive biography of Otto Warburg which will be published in Stuttgart this year.

E.G.L.

### ERICH MENDELSON REMEMBERED

The Berlin Library of Art has collected more than 1,500 sketches for buildings by Erich (Eric) Mendelsohn (1881-1953). Another 1,000 drawings for buildings he created in America and in Israel, and a great deal of autobiographical material are kept together in the *Archiv Erich Mendelsohn*. A member of the Library of Art spent nearly a year cataloguing the material; part of which was shown in the 1976 exhibition "Five architects from five centuries". The Yearbook of Prussian Cultural Treasures for 1976 which has just been published, contains an appreciation of Mendelsohn's work with many illustrations which contain three sketches for a monument for the six million Nazi victims, planned in 1949, but never executed.

E.G.L.

### NEW EDITION OF IMPORTANT BOOKS

The Frankfurt Athenaeum publishing house recently took over the *Jüdische Verlag* which between 1902 and 1939 and again after 1959, published important Jewish writings. It will soon re-publish some important books of the pre-Nazi period, including the symposium *Das jüdische Prag* with contributions by Max Brod, Franz Kafka, Franz Werfel, Robert Weltsch and many others. Edited by Professor Dr. Julius Schoeps, Theodor Herzl's *Altneuland* and *Der Judenstaat* will also appear in new editions.

E.G.L.

### 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 15th of the month.

#### Birthdays

Happy about her recovery the members of the AJR CLUB congratulate their beloved chairman, Margaret Jacoby, most heartily on her 96th birthday. Affectionately they wish her good health in the years to come. Mrs. Jacoby's presence radiates happiness, and all the CLUB members can wish for is to return even to a small extent the love and joy she gives.

**Reichold.**—Heartiest congratulations to Mr. Julius Reichold on the occasion of his 85th birthday on May 14.

#### Deaths

**Albahary.**—Miss Franz Albahary, of Tolworth, Surrey, formerly Belsize Park, London, passed away on March 21. Sadly missed by her sister and friends.

**Barnass.**—Mrs. Gerda Barnass (née Mahler) passed away on March 29 after a long illness bravely borne. Deeply mourned by her husband, family and friends.

**Meyer.**—Dr. Max Meyer, dental surgeon, of 45 Arkwright Road, London, N.W.3, died on March 15. Deeply mourned by his wife and relatives.

**Stern.**—Mrs. Wanda Stern, beloved wife of the late Julius, and dearly loved mother of Steven (Guenter) and his wife, Carrye, passed away on March 9. Mourned by her relatives and friends.—Steven Opton (Stern), 1920 Sacramento Street, San Francisco 94109, California, U.S.A.

**Weltsch.**—Mrs. Irene Weltsch, beloved wife of Robert Weltsch, died suddenly on April 9. Deeply mourned by her husband, family and many friends.

#### In Memoriam

**Sinai.**—In cherished memory of a dearly loved wife and mother, "Rose", who passed away Nisan 4 (March 17, 1964). Never forgotten by her still grieving husband, children and grandchildren.

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**CONTINENTAL** gentleman, 5ft 6in in height, has own established business in London and nice home. Wishes to meet refined nice lady over 30. Object matrimony. Box 728.

**FOR MY DAUGHTER,** attractive, good looking, single, 48 years of age, art student, fond of music, substantial assets and income, I would like to meet Mr. Right, aged up to 50, for marriage. Box 729.

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED

##### Personal Enquiries

**Steinberg.**—Edgar Steinberg, born 9.5.1912, last known address in Germany, Weisstrasse 4, Plauen i. Vogtland, is believed to have emigrated to the UK in 1936 and to have lived in Manchester. Will readers who can give information please write to Erich Beyer, Bartningallee 20, 1 Berlin 21.

**Gruenwald.**—Who knew Lizzie Gruenwald in London or in Vienna at Migazzi Platz 6/II, 12. Bezirk. Information needed about parents and relatives. Please contact Rosa Schlesinger, 6 Surbiton Hall Close, Surbiton Crescent, Kingston upon Thames. Phone 01-546 1819.

#### AJR Enquiries

**Israelski.**—Mrs. E. Israelski—last known address 25 Campion Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

# AJR GENERAL MEETING

As readers will have seen from the announcement published on page 5 of this issue, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25, at 7.45 p.m., in the Hall of Hannah Karminski House (side entrance), 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

As in previous years, the business of the AGM will be followed by a talk on a subject connected with the wider issues of our community. We are particularly pleased that Mr. Martin Savitt, Chairman of the Defence and Group Relations Committee of the Board of Deputies, agreed to give an address of his Committee's work. In the light of current trends in this country his talk will be particularly topical. Mr. Savitt will give a balanced account of the problems with which we are faced and we are sure that our members will avail themselves of the opportunity of listening to his address.

The talk by Mr. Savitt will be preceded by reports on the activities and finances of the AJR and the election of the AJR Executive and Board members. The following election proposals are submitted by the Executive:

**Committee of Management (Executive):** All members of the present Executive stand for re-election. They are: Mr. A. S. Dresel (Life President), Mr. C. T. Marx (Chairman), Dr. F. E. Falk (Vice-Chairman), Mr. L. Spiro (Treasurer), Mrs. S. Taussig (General Secretary), Dr. W. Rosenstock (Director), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. C. F. Flesch, Mr. O. E. Franklyn (Trustee), Mr. E. K. Heyman, Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Mr. M. Kochmann, J.P. (Trustee), Dr. E. A. Lomnitz, Mr. E. A. Sonnenberg, Dr. Laura Stein.

**Board:** It is proposed to re-elect the following members of the present Board: Mrs. O.

Albrecht, Mr. R. Apt, Miss M. Babington, Mrs. A. Berent, Mrs. R. Berlin, Dr. J. Bondi, Dr. W. Breslauer, Rabbi I. Broch, Mr. F. Dannen, Dr. W. Dux, Dr. R. Elton, Dr. H. Feld, Dr. A. Fleiss, Mrs. A. Fleiss, Dr. H. G. Francken, Mr. R. J. Friedmann, Mrs. Elisabeth Goldschmidt, Dr. Erna Goldschmidt, Mr. R. Graupner, Sir Ludwig Guttman, Mr. S. F. Hallgarten, Mrs. G. Hamburg, Mr. E. Haymann, Mr. Herbert M. Hirsch, Mrs. Susanne Horwell, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Mrs. B. Kanter, Dr. A. Kaufmann, Mr. E. C. Kent, Mrs. F. Kochmann, Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek, Dr. H. Lawton, Miss J. Lee, Dr. Rita Lehmann, Dr. G. Leon, Dr. F. Levy, Mr. A. Lieberman, Dr. Julius Loeb, Mrs. Ilse Loewenthal, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Dr. E. Magnus, Mrs. M. Mautner, Mr. H. C. Mayer, Mrs. Gabriele Meyer, Mrs. L. Meyer, Dr. L. Nelken, Dr. H. Neufeld, Mr. E. Plaut, Mrs. M. Pottlitzer, Mr. W. R. Powell, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. E. Reifenberg (Gabriele Tergit), Mr. J. Sachs, Mrs. Charlotte Salzberger, Mr. F. Samson, Mrs. Ruth Schneider, Mrs. A. Schwab, Mrs. D. Segall, Dr. W. Selig, Mr. P. E. Shields, O.B.E., Mr. Julius Strauss, Dr. U. Tietz, Mrs. Eva Trent, Dr. Valerie Wills, Dr. Charlotte Wittelschofer, Mr. F. S. Worms, Mr. H. Wreschner.

It is proposed to elect as new Board members Dr. J. J. Halpern, Mr. W. M. Lash, and Mr. W. Salinger, chairman of Otto Schiff House Committee.

The Board also includes representatives of the Provincial groups.

## NEW POST FOR RABBI KOKOTEK

Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek of the Belsize Square New Liberal Synagogue was elected chairman of the Council of Reform and Liberal Rabbis.

## FRIEDA KOCHMANN 80

On 16 May, Mrs. Frieda Kochmann will join the steadily increasing number of active octogenarians who continue to work hard for the benefit of our community. She grew up in Berlin in an artistic family which produced its own chamber music trio, her brother playing the cello, her sister, now a professional musician, the violin and "Friedl" the piano. After her marriage, she and her husband joined the B'nai B'rith Spinoza Lodge of which her father was already a member, and she soon became involved in social projects. After her emigration to this country, and in spite of having to bring up two children and of hard times when her husband tried to re-establish himself in the printing trade and even harder times after his death, she remained active in social causes. She is probably the oldest serving member of any of our Old Age Home House Committees: after 22 years of devoted work for the residents of Otto Schiff House, she is still a regular visitor and often, particularly at Passover time, she gives full-time assistance in the domestic quarters. She also continues with active work in the Chevra Kadisha of the Belsize Square Synagogue, attending to the sacred duties devoted to the dead.

Frieda Kochmann is a highly respected member of the Leo Baeck Women's Lodge and a member of the AJR Board. Whenever there is an emergency or a need for personal help, she is called upon and there is always an immediate response. She has retained an immensely positive, optimistic attitude to life, and her youthful frame of mind is reflected in her flexibility of outlook and her immediate reaction to all situations with which she is confronted. This makes her also the focal point of her family, a beloved grandmother who maintains intimate contact with her grandchildren and a large number of friends. Her friends and all those who have experienced her dedicated work in many spheres, wish her many more years in good health and undiminished activity for the benefit of all. S.H.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

Some of the Latest German Films only infrequently seen in this country, have just had a showing at London's National Film Theatre. They were all directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder whose "Chinese Roulette" was featured by BBC Television a short while ago. Many of Fassbinder's films are original in their style and most cleverly conceived; a large cast in his five-part epic "Acht Stunden sind kein Tag" included Luise Ullrich and Werner Finck.

On *revient toujours?* It is rumoured that Walter Reisch, author of the 1934 film "Maskerade" which brought Paula Wessely international fame, is going to convert this very same subject into a musical. Whether this can be done successfully for a blasé audience of the Seventies, remains to be seen.

Vienna. Dame Anna Neagle is at present appearing in Noel Coward's comedy "Relative Values" at Vienna's English theatre.—A new "Schauspielhaus" in Porzellangasse is opening on May 4th with the first premières being translations from the English: "Kennedy's children" by Robert Patrick, and Poliakoff's "Strawberry Fields," recently seen at London's Cottesloe Theatre. The tenor Anton Dermota is the only pre-1938 singer still active at the State Opera.

Tit-Bits. Curd Jürgens (63) has just got married again, this time at Nassau in the Bahamas. His fifth wife is German ex-model Margie Schmitz (37). It is exactly 25 years ago that Audrey Mildmay died. She was the gifted opera singer who inspired her husband John Christie to build an opera house at Glyndebourne, and who conceived the idea of the Edinburgh Festival together with Rudolf Bing.

Once again Peter Ustinov. The extrovert all-round comedian who is also cosmopolitan, anti-militarist, writer, actor and showman, translated his autobiography "Dear Me" into German under the title "Ach Du mein Güte."

**Birthdays.** Actor and film producer Willy Forst celebrated his 75th birthday; film director Helmut Käutner is 70; the same age was attained last month by Herbert von Karajan, considered to be Europe's greatest conductor of the day. S.B.

## VALESKA GERT

The actress and revue artist Valeska Gert has died at the age of 86 on the island of Sylt where she performed regularly since 1949. In the 'twenties, she won much admiration with her protest songs, her grotesque dances and her mastery of mime. She appeared on the screen with Asta Nielsen, Greta Garbo and Lotte Lenja in such classics as "Freudlose Gasse", "Tagebuch einer Verlorenen" and "Dreigroschenoper". When her career in Germany ended with the Nazis' advent to power, she emigrated to New York where her "Beggars' Bar" became a centre of attraction for the nostalgic. She returned to Berlin soon after the Allied victory and opened another cabaret "The Witches' Kitchen", but she did not attract a modern public and in later years was seen more in TV documentaries and plays.

## "BARMITZVAH BOY" AS MUSICAL

Jack Rosenthal's controversial TV play "Barmitzvah Boy" is at the moment being turned into a musical with particular appeal for Broadway. The lyrics are written by Don Black, the music is composed by Jules Styne. The producers are looking for a 16-year-old (Jewish) boy who looks like 13 and "can sing like a dream."

## THE EDITOR'S BIRTHDAY

The Editor was deeply touched by the birthday tributes selected and produced without his knowledge with so much love and understanding by his colleagues. Having returned from Israel only recently, he asks all well-wishers for their indulgence, if it takes some time until he has expressed his personal thanks to them.

## A Letter from the German Ambassador

In addition to the tributes published last month, the following congratulation was received from the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Hans Helmuth Ruete:

*Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Rosenstock,*

*Als ich die Freude hatte, Sie vor einem halben Jahr bei mir kennenzulernen, dachte ich, ich habe einen "middle-aged" Herrn vor mir. Nun erfahre ich heute durch das AJR Bulletin, dass Sie gerade Ihren 70. Geburtstag feierten. Ich moechte Ihnen nachtraeglich von Herzen Glueck wuenschen. Sie haben—trotz aller furchtbaren Erlebnisse im 3. Reich—stets in Ihren Handlungen und Artikeln in Ihrer Zeitschrift und in Vortraegen gezeigt, dass Sie, ueber Ressentiments erhaben, dem neuen Deutschland Vertrauen schenken. Fuer Ihre versoehnende Haltung hat mein Vorgaenger Ihnen vor 8 Jahren das Bundesverdienstkreuz I. Klasse im Namen des Herrn Bundespraesidenten verliehen.*

*Mit meinen Glueckwuenschen verbinde ich meinen Dank fuer Ihre Zusammenarbeit und verbleibe.*

*Ihr*

H. H. RUETE

Botschafter der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
13 April, 1978

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