

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

C. C. Aronsfeld

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Britain and the Reichstag Elections

It is now half a century since the Nazis broke upon the stage of history with a force that was to carry them to power within little more than two years. On 14 September 1930 they scored the spectacular success of increasing their presence in Parliament from 12 to 107, and henceforth Europe was served with a warning that could not be overheard though it was in fact ignored. At this distance it is perhaps interesting to recall the judgment passed on that event by the contemporaries, especially the British press.

The landslide came as a great surprise. It seemed a thing too bad to be true, at best ominously confusing. The *Times* found it "a little difficult" to understand the popularity of Hitler's "vague half-revolutionary, half-idealistic programme, if indeed so definite a term can be applied to the 'Nazi' manifesto." The *Daily Telegraph* thought it was a "farrago of patently ruinous follies" though also a "danger signal" of "political portent". The *Manchester Guardian* considered the Nazi Party "the most irresponsible, the most disorderly, the most disruptive, the most contemptuous of the social order", a body of men "ignorant, vulgar and barbarous" and "their leaders (especially the Austrian charlatan Hitler) utterly worthless".

Opinions on Hitler varied, however. The *Observer* described him as "dramatic, violent and shallow", really a "light weight" as he was "shouting in perfect sincerity the most impossible nonsense against Parliaments and Jews". After all, "when the Kaiser talked of the 'mailed fist', everyone knew he was a weak man, no strong man ever talks like that". On the other hand, the *Observer* was not quite sure; these were "times of public agitation" where all sorts of things were possible, and as Meredith had said of other demagogues, "a dead leaf may fly as high as a hawk in a high wind". The *Daily Telegraph* characterised Hitler as "an utterly reckless political incendiary"—a particularly perceptive epithet in view of the fires that were first to destroy the Reichstag, then engulf all Europe until they would at least burn themselves out in the crematoria of the extermination camps.

The *Times'* Berlin Correspondent had read the Party's 25 Theses which were fairly explicit but he felt "such literature does not carry one very far". Others, less sophisticated though perhaps more experienced might easily have enlightened him. A glance into the German Jewish press of the time reveals an eminently, often uncannily, correct interpretation of precisely "such literature", as well as of much other Nazi literature which after all pulled no punches. The pathetic and then unheeded Jewish warnings now sound like dirges amidst the ruins and the mass graves.

According to the *Times'* Correspondent, no-

body knew "whether Nazism is a menace or whether it may develop into a constructive force". So seasoned a student of affairs was taken in by Hitler who had declared, for foreign ears, that the Nazi aim was "the conquest of the German soul"—just that, whatever it may have meant—and (the British public is told) "his words suggest that he is going to guide this spirit into useful channels".

After this introduction, Hitler is actually invited to assure the *Times* that the Nazi movement "discountenances violent antisemitism". The Berlin Correspondent writes: "Herr Hitler would have nothing to do with pogroms . . . The Nazi doctrine was 'Germany for the Germans' (he said), and their attitude towards Jews was governed by the attitude of Jews towards this doctrine." He had nothing against decent Jews, Hitler went on, practising one of the biggest of his Big Lies, but "if Jews associated themselves with Bolshevism, as many unfortunately did, they must be regarded as enemies. The party was against all violence, but if attacked, it was ready to defend itself."

The technique of the Big Lie, like the practice of violence, had been expressly commended in Hitler's book (then five years old), but who had read *Mein Kampf*, or having read, took note of it?

Public Opinion fooled

The ignorance of it was responsible for public opinion being fooled by what the *Times'* Correspondent reported as "the romantic idea of tilting against the Treaty of Versailles" which the Nazis, relying on some Western sympathies, regarded as "the source of all evil". Actually, in his book, Hitler had made it perfectly clear that his ambition went far beyond so modest and largely outdated an objective; he wanted the world domination which the *Manchester Guardian* Correspondent reports (unaware of the psychological trick) he imputed to the Jews.

The *Morning Post* drew attention to Hitler's then still "powerful allies"—"the nationalists of Alfred Hugenberg" (the press and film lord) who were "scarcely distinguishable except in their less exaggerated displays of ruffianism". But what sort of an alliance would this be, the *Observer's* Berlin Correspondent asked and managed to reassure himself with the forecast that "Hugenberg and not Hitler will ultimately call the National Socialist tune" . . .

And then there was President Hindenburg in whom both the *Morning Post* and the *Observer* placed great confidence. He could be expected to "give counsels of moderation and cohesion to the forces of stability and constitutionalism"; while he was alive and "remains firm in supporting the statesmanship of reason", there was "no cause for alarm". Altogether there was "no

reason why Europe should feel any alarm at all", the *New Statesman* said, and while there was "undoubted anxiety" in some countries, notably France, the *Times* thought "it would be a mistake to put too sinister an interpretation upon what may only prove to be a very transitory phase of German politics".

One little sinister aspect there was, however. Nazi propaganda strikingly scored in Britain with its vaunted "anti-Communism". No less a personage than Lord Rothermere, a British Hugenberg, eagerly swallowed the bait which was to confuse many more before it caused the surrender at Munich. In a series of articles which were promptly featured in the *Völkischer Beobachter*, he commended Hitler for having already "rendered services to Western Europe" by "setting up an additional rampart against Bolshevism"—additional, that is, to his Lordship's own United Empire Party.

Lord Rothermere lyrical

Rothermere grew almost lyrical—though, alas, also prophetic—about "the new Germany rising before our eyes"; she was "strong today, will be much stronger a few years hence: she is determined now, she may before long be defiant", and therefore regardless of the moral issue involved—"it would be a blunder for the British people to take up an attitude of hostility towards it".

So pleased was Rothermere with the "anti-Communist" canard and its implication of appeasement that he foretells, with equanimity—eight years before it happened—the annexation, through that line of propaganda, of Austria, Czechoslovakia and quite possibly Hungary too. It never occurred to him that so much "anti-Communism" fuelled by antisemitism might not be in the interests of Britain since it involved, admittedly, "a great combination under German hegemony".

While Nazi antisemitism never noticeably troubled Rothermere, the *Times* was aware of "the moral nausea felt by everyone outside Germany at recent attacks, surpassing all previous brutalities, upon the Jews". The *Manchester Guardian* correspondent reported "a great deal of nervousness amongst some of the wealthier Berlin Jews", and "indeed it must be admitted that the antisemitism that is being developed by the National Socialists is of a particularly poisonous kind"; but he also can see a silver lining—"of course there is not the slightest doubt that Jews in Germany will be defended by the law exactly as other German citizens".

As for the "anti-Communism", the *Times* Berlin Correspondent knew of "several responsible German commentators objecting to the suggestion that National Socialism is to be regarded as a bulwark against Communism". The *New Statesman* shrewdly found "the rejoicings in Russian papers more justified than in (fascist) Italy". The *Observer* also saw through the ruse; Bolshevism, it thought, might well oblige Hitler with Mephisto's advice "Go on and prosper, for thou wilt ruin them all".

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FIFTY YEARS AGO

Continued from page 1

A peculiarly mistaken view was put before the British public by the German Jewish author Emil Ludwig whose literary work had gained him a position of some authority among Anglo-Saxons. In an article in the *Sunday Times* he wrote: "Nothing could be more to be desired than that Hitler's followers should be forced to govern. Then would Germany and the rest of the world realise that though they could make rousing phrases about chains of slavery and bondage to the Jews, they could not long hold leadership. One need only look at their faces and hear their voices to see that the best of them are idealists without ideas". As Hitler being an Austrian could not "make himself ridiculous in the Reichstag", he must "excite sympathy because at the crucial moment he must wait outside the circus, like Carmen in the fourth act".

Ludwig refused to admit that Hitler could ever become a German dictator because "the democratic idea is not yet strong enough to enable Germans to believe in men who come from the people"; consequently, "there is nothing left for Germany but to swallow the bitter pill of Democracy".

Those who voted for Hitler, Ludwig wrote, were "as good Germans as any but inexperienced and refuse to recognise the results of the war which they still loudly assert they would not have lost".

Ludwig did not mention the "anti-Communist bulwark"; he instead dealt with the "rumour that Hitler wants to join hands with the Russians", but he said (rather less of a prophet than Rothermere), "this can be believed only by people who do not know the character of the Germans".

Whatever the character of the Germans, Hitler's character presently became clear when he uttered the blood-curdling threat that under his regime "heads will roll in the sand". The *Times* Correspondent who had expected "a moderating influence by enlightened well-wishers", noted dryly that such talk "does not sound like a change of heart"; the editor, though, was not unduly disturbed; he decided that the effect must be "ridicule, and perhaps a certain irritation, rather than any real alarm outside Germany". For the *Manchester Guardian* the "blood-sodden grandiloquence" was enough to draw the straightforward lesson that "it would be criminal folly to give Hitler the power to carry out the threats". It was not long before the criminal folly was committed.

IN MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST World Reunion In Israel

A reunion of Holocaust survivors will be held in Israel from 14-18 June, 1981. The programme includes an assembly of all participants at Yad Vashem, a gathering in the area of the Knesset and visits to Kibbutzim. There will also be discussions among members of the Second Generation of sons and daughters of the survivors. Taking place 36 years after the end of the war, this will in all likelihood be the only worldwide function of this kind and therefore an event of historical importance. Members of the AJR, most of whom had the good fortune of being rescued before the war but lost relatives and friends, are also invited to the rally. Participants may extend their stay in Israel beyond the days of the official functions. A brochure, carrying a detailed programme and also information about the cost may be obtained from: The Yad Vashem UK Committee, c/o Board of Deputies, Woburn House, London WC1H 0EP.

GERMAN HARDSHIP FUND

In following up a recommendation of the German Federal Parliament, dated 14 December, 1979, the Federal Government has decided to allocate funds of up to 400 million DM for the alleviation of hardship in special cases of Jewish Nazi victims. The first instalment of 50 million DM has been incorporated into the supplementary budget 1980, and a second payment of 100 million DM is envisaged for 1981; the years and amounts of further payments will be made dependent on budgetary possibilities and existing needs.

The guidelines under which the funds are to be administered were published in the Federal Gazette of 14 October. They stipulate that the funds are to be used for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in the meaning of the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG), who for formal reasons cannot obtain compensation payments under the BEG because they were unable to meet the filing deadlines or to comply with date and residence requirements of the BEG. Victims under these categories are eligible for payments if they have suffered considerable damage to health and are in special need. The grants consist of capital payments of up to DM 5,000.—

The funds will be placed at the disposal of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany and distributed by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany (Claims Conference), 119 Grueneburgweg, 6000 Frankfurt/Main.

At the time of going to press the details of the procedure (questionnaires, time limit, etc.) have not yet been decided upon. We shall report further developments in this journal. Any enquiries should be addressed to the Claims Conference and not to the office of the AJR.

The guidelines also envisage grants of up to 5 per cent of the available funds for the maintenance of institutions which provide shelter for persecutees, and the Council of Jews from Germany is actively pursuing the allocation of a share in these grants for the benefit of the institutions of its affiliates in the main countries of resettlement.

SS COLONEL ON TRIAL

In Munich, the trial has opened against 73-year-old former SS colonel Kurt Christmann, a lawyer by profession, who had been arrested by the Americans in 1945, but escaped from the prison hospital to Rome, where a priest gave him a Red Cross paper which helped him to flee to Argentina with his wife. In 1955, he voluntarily returned to Coblenz in order to "clear up accusations against him". Since then he worked as an estate agent and was only recently arrested. He said in court that his "special operations" had shot or hanged only enemy guerillas and that the "Jewish question" did not concern him. On his return to civilian life, he had had business relations with respectable Munich Jews, and he added "I would have spat in my own face, if I had ever killed a single Jew." He had been commander of a special corps under orders to deal with guerillas and partisans, and "he had done so unemotionally and humanely." He had seen gas vans in use in his district, but had come to the conclusion that this was the most humane way of killing people. He could not remember how often he had seen the "loading" of gas vans, because "this had not been a world-shattering event" for him.

One witness in the trial was a 68-year-old theologian also a former SS colonel who said that he had twice shammed illness in order not to take part in killings. He had been accused of sedition by the Nazi authorities, but never been brought to trial, and he had not expected to be punished. A blind 71-year-old former SS man said that, before the "Barbarossa" action in Riga against Jews, gypsies and partisans, the SS members had been told to report if they did not feel up to it. None of them had done so, for fear of being sent to the front.

TV PROGRAMMES OF INTEREST

In recent weeks, both BBC and ITV have shown a number of programmes on matters concerning Jews and Israel. A BBC Panorama programme which had as its main topic the terrorist attack in Bologna, devoted some time to the discussion of the Paris synagogue attack and interviewed Marc Fredriksen, the leader of the neo-Nazi European Nationalist Fasces in France who advocated the expulsion of Jews from France. English-born Rabbi Michael Williams, who had conducted the synagogue service, said that during the last few months, when antisemitic attacks had become frequent in France, he discovered that he was becoming discreet and no longer said who he was. He added that a few months ago, in the Metro, "I suddenly discovered that for the first time in my life, while reading a book in Hebrew, I was hiding the fact."

A "Horizon" report "The Dead Sea Lives" revealed the great efforts Israeli scientists are making to extract chemicals, potash in particular, from the Dead Sea, and their regret at the Jordanians' refusal to cooperate rather than building their own plants. Another outcome of the industrialisation of the Dead Sea area was the production of man-made solar power using hot brine which would by the year 2000 satisfy 20 per cent of Israel's requirements, which would equal present total requirements. Finally Israel has opened a number of Algae farms at Eilat which produce highly needed protein for animal feed and glycerol for a number of chemical uses. Viewers were also informed that the whole area was subject to seismic tremors and that it had been an earthquake rather than trumpets that had flattened the walls of Jericho.

According to Michael Parkinson, it was sheer coincidence that he had invited three Jewish guests to one of his Saturday night shows. They were Lilli Palmer, Itzhak Perlman and Larry Adler. In the course of the evening, he asked them about their experiences of antisemitism. Speaking of concerts in Germany by Perlman and himself, Larry Adler said that one could not condemn a nation and that guilt was a personal thing. Lilli Palmer said that she came to Britain, because she had been unable to follow her profession as an actress in Germany, but that she would probably not have emigrated if she had not been Jewish. When she was asked to return to Germany to make a film nearly 20 years later, she was in doubt whether she should go, but her former brother-in-law who had been one of the chief prosecutors in Nuremberg, had told her that she must because bridges had to be built. She felt that there was now less antisemitism in Germany than elsewhere in the world.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger gave a lucid and interesting talk on woman's role in the religious service and on her own day-to-day work.

SELF AID CONCERT

This year's Self Aid Concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall again excelled by the outstanding level of the participating artists and the happy choice of its well balanced programme. Sylvia Sass, accompanied by Craig Sheppard, rendered a performance of four Hungarian Folk Songs, arranged by Kodály; her widely recognised accomplishments as an opera singer also became evident in the way in which her beautiful voice made the audience aware of the flavour of Hungarian folk music. Chopin's Scherzo in B minor was played by young José Feghali (born 1961), who showed emotional maturity and technical perfection as required by works of this composer; in a way, the piece has a certain indirect topicality because, as H. W. Freyhan writes in his programme notes, it was possibly written under the impact of the unsuccessful Polish rising against the Czarist rule. The concert was opened by a Haydn Quartet, played by the Bochmann String Quartet (Michael Bochmann, David Angel, Gustav Clarkson and Sebastian Combetti) and, with José Feghali at the piano, concluded by Dvorak's most enjoyable Piano Quintet in A.

As usual, the Concert also fulfilled its social function as a reunion of friends, who seldom see each other during the year. Last but not least, it was also a financial success, helping Self Aid in carrying out its essential welfare work.

HOME NEWS

NEW LEGISLATION ON POLITICAL MARCHES PROPOSED

Justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists, has proposed that the Public Order Act, 1936, should be amended so as to make participating in a banned march an offence. The organisation also recommends the right of appeal direct to the Home Secretary where the police refuse to ban a march after being requested to do so by local authorities. In its comment on the Green Paper the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers suggests that the power to ban marches or demonstrations should be exercised only if they were likely to stir up racial hatred.

BOGUS LETTERS TO THE PRESS

The latest ploy of racist organisations in Britain is the submission of fake readers' letters to both national and local publications purporting to come from Jewish readers, but in actuality containing anti-Jewish propaganda. Flagrant examples appeared in both *The Listener* and *Spectator* magazines recently and were exposed as coming from non-existent addresses by the Board of Deputies defence department. Another that appeared in the *Ilford and Redbridge Post*, used the name and former address of an elderly Jewish lady who had moved to the Midlands. The technique adopted in this form of letter-writing is to adopt an ostensibly moderate tone and then to promote anti-semitism or damage Israel's image and question the reality of the Holocaust.

DETERRENT SENTENCES FOR PETROL BOMB PLOT

The Recorder at the Inner London Crown Court jailed four London youths for six years each after they had pleaded guilty to being in the possession of petrol bombs following a march of the National Front at Lewisham. Judge G. A. MacDonald said it was his duty to impose severe sentences to deter others from trying to bring guerrilla warfare to the streets of London.

"IT COULD HAPPEN HERE"

Addressing the first monthly meeting of the new session of the Board of Deputies, its President, Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, warned that the anti-semitic manifestations recently shown in France could easily happen in Britain and attacked the community's lack of readiness to prepare for such an eventuality by starving the Board of the funds it needed for Jewish defence purposes.

BOOKLET BIAS TO BE REMEDIED

The Dean of Gloucester, the Rev. Gilbert Thurlow, has promised to delete inaccurate, biased and often offensive references to the medieval Jewish community of Norwich in a booklet about the city that he had written. A Jewish reader wrote to the Dean complaining in particular about a passage that read: "Their unpopularity (as much a criticism of their hosts as of them) is illustrated by the tales of outrages supposed to have been perpetrated by them . . . the chief of such tales is that of St. William, a boy who, on Easter eve 1144, is said to have been murdered by Jews in Thorpe Wood. . . . The story of the murder seems never to have been proved or disproved." There was no mention of the subsequent massacre of the Norwich Jewish community or other persecutions to which they had been subjected. The Dean has promised to include a revised text in the next edition of the booklet, due for publication in two or three years time.

ANTI-ZIONISM INQUIRY

The City Literary Institute is to hold an internal inquiry after protests that a six-week course, "Israel or Palestine?", contained blatant anti-Israel prejudice. It refused, however, to suspend the course, but issued a second recommended reading list which included material expressing the Israeli viewpoint. Although under the auspices of the Inner London Education Authority, the Institute is completely independent and there are no precedents for an ILEA intervention in a dispute over content.

LEO BAECK LODGES' FLATLET HOME

The official opening of the Flatlet Home at 11 Fitzjohn's Avenue on 26 October testified anew to the steady progress of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodges. Like the AJR, the Lodge was founded during the war by refugees, most of whom had great difficulties in making ends meet. Among the first Hon. Officers were members of the AJR Executive, the late Messrs. A. Schoyer, A. Horovitz and K. Alexander. Since then, the AJR Executive and Board have always included members who also held leading positions with the Lodge. Whilst, from the very beginning, the Lodge excelled in regular cultural activities, social schemes on a larger scale could only be embarked upon after the war.

The establishment of the Flatlet Home marks the completion of a further constructive enterprise. The house provides seven self-contained one-roomed flatlets and seven two-roomed flatlets, each with its own entrance hall, kitchen and bathroom, and a two-roomed self-contained flat of the warden. A single storey annexe houses a large hall.

At the impressive opening ceremony under the chairmanship of Mr. Zigmund Pick, addresses were delivered by Hon. Officers of the Lodge, Mr. Richard Fisher, Mrs. Elisabeth Lieser and Mr. Werner Lash. The greetings of the Borough of Camden were conveyed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Maureen Robinson.

The main speaker, the Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Finsberg, Member of Parliament for Hampstead and Under Secretary of State in the Department for the Environment, stressed his particular interest in sheltered housing and congratulated the Lodge on its initiative and perseverance, which had contributed to the easing of the specific accommodation difficulties of the elderly from the Continent.

Dr. Frank E. Falk, Hon. Vice-President, B'nai B'rith, District XV, moved the vote of thanks to the speakers and especially referred to the helpfulness of Mr. Finsberg who, a few years ago, had also been instrumental in alleviating the tax position of Nazi victims.

The dedication of the House was performed by Rabbi J. J. Kokotek, Minister of the Belsize Square Synagogue.

"WOMEN OF THE YEAR"

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, minister of the South London Liberal Synagogue, who is the daughter of our contributors Walter and Alice Schwab, was among the Guests of Honour at this year's "Women of the Year" lunch at the Savoy in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind. She was asked to say the grace before meals in Hebrew. The Jewish Blind Society is among the organisations benefiting from the proceeds.

MICHAEL ELKINS' AWARD

In the Society of Authors' Pye Radio Awards, Michael Elkins won the prize for the best "talk or illustrated talk" of the year for his contribution to BBC Radio 4: "A Jew at Christmas." In it he revealed how for years, after experiencing anti-semitism in New York, he had nothing to do with Jews or Judaism. It was only while serving in the American armed forces and seeing the concentration camps that he was jolted into a recognition of his Jewish identity.

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SPEAKER JOINS CCJ

Mr. George Thomas, the Speaker of the House of Commons, has become a vice-president of the Council of Christians and Jews. His election was announced at a recent dinner held at Jews' College, London, when the new general secretary of the International Council of Christians and Jews, Dr. J. Coos Schoneveld, was also introduced. The ICCJ has its headquarters at Heppenheim, West Germany, in the former home of the late Martin Buber. Dr. Schoneveld stated that as a Christian he had benefited greatly from the 13 years he had spent in Israel. He also expressed horror at the recent events in Paris, saying: "We must develop strategies whereby we can fight against the growth of anti-semitism." His sentiments were echoed by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, who commented that both Christians and Jews were facing a world crisis which they could overcome if they pulled together. Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Chairman of the ICCJ, was host for the event.

HOME SECRETARY'S PROTECTION PLEDGE

Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has assured a delegation from the Board of Deputies that the British Government will do all in its power to protect the community at large and its Jewish citizens following the spate of terrorism against Jews in several European countries. The government and police were fully alive to the dangers, he stated.

BACHAD FELLOWSHIP

At the recent meeting of the Bachad Fellowship the Chairman, Mr. Arie L. Handler reported on developments in connection with the new Bachad Centre in Halleswelle Road, N.W. London. He also gave a report on the Bnei Akivah Scholarship Institute (BASI), which since 1964 has provided for senior members of the Movement to spend a year in Israel and stated that this year 54 young people had gone to Israel under the scheme. Of these about 38 were staying in one of the Religious Kibbutzim, and the remainder in various Yeshivot.

TRADES ADVISORY COUNCIL

At a Reception and Dinner to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Trades Advisory Council the Guests of Honour were The Rt. Hon. James Prior, PC, MP, Secretary of State for Employment, and The Hon. Greville Janner, QC, MP, President of the Board of Deputies. As a memento of the occasion, the Chairman, Councillor John Bull, JP, presented an engraved salver to Mr. Prior.

AWARD FOR LONDON TRANSLATOR

The Schlegel-Tieck Prize, endowed by the Bonn Foreign office and the Board of the German Book Trade for outstanding English translators of 20th century German literature, was awarded to Janet Seligman (London) for her translation of the book about the English country house by Hermann Muthesius (1861-1927). Miss Seligman is a member of the Bavarian banker family Seligmann, which emigrated to the United States in the middle of the last century. E.G.L.

EXHIBITION

German and Austrian Painters

An exhibition of works by German and Austrian artists of the 20th century, including Ernst Barlach, Max Beckmann, Lovis Corinth, George Grosz, Oskar Kokoschka, Kaethe Kollwitz and many others, at the Goethe Institute (50 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7) continues until 19 December (Monday-Friday 12 noon-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.).

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Policy Change on Alleged Nazis

The United States is proposing to change its policy towards alleged Nazi war criminals through extraditing them to Poland and West Germany instead of using slow cumbersome court procedures aimed at challenging their American citizenship. Discussions are to be held with the Polish and West German Governments to consider the procedures to be followed. The United States-Polish extradition treaty dates back to 1929, but the American Justice Department has allowed it to fall into disuse since Poland became part of the Soviet Bloc. The only war criminal extradition case with West Germany concerned Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan, who was sent back to stand trial in 1974. At present the Justice Department is seeking to deport or deprive of citizenship 18 alleged war criminals and has more cases in preparation.

Yale Exclusiveness Attacked

The retiring Hillel Rabbi and Jewish chaplain at Yale, Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf, accused the university authorities of "callousness" towards the Jewish community in the course of his farewell sermon. Their attitude he claimed kept Jews from "decision-making positions", which was a "carry-over" from a long tradition of anti-semitism that was thought to have ended with the dramatic increase in the number of Jewish students and members of the teaching staff that began some 20 years ago. The authorities, he argued, said "You come to our school, but we will still run our school." Their attitude fell short of anti-semitism, but was callousness. The University's president, Dr. A. Bartlett, defended its record by pointing out that there was a big Jewish studies curriculum. Two Jewish members of the faculty, Professors John Hollander and Harold Bloom, also rejected the allegations.

Stolen 15th Century Hagaddah Discovered

A 15th century Hagaddah, the work of Joel Ben Simeon, a German Jewish scribe, stolen from the Rothschild family during World War II, has been discovered among items in a bequest to Yale University. It was identified by a graduate student from a single pencilled figure 92 on its inside back cover and its description in a French government publication listing items stolen from Jews by the Nazis. At one time it had belonged to the English branch of the Rothschild family, as the numbers used matched their system of cataloguing. Valued at \$150,000, it will now be presented to the Hebrew University in accordance with the wishes of the Rothschild family.

Belgian Nazis in Texas

Four members of the Flemish Vlaamse Militanten Orde, a Belgian para-military fascist group that annually organises meetings of European neo-Nazis to extol Hitler, have been to Marietta, Galveston, Texas, to meet with 50 members of the National States' Rights Party and its leader, J. B. Stoner. The gathering was claimed to be the first conference in a national campaign "to oppose the floodtide of immigration." Stoner attacked what he described as Jewish efforts to open the United States to non-white immigration from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

US BANKS YIELD TO ARAB BOYCOTT

Bank Leumi le-Israel, which holds nineteenth position among the world's banks, has been refused membership of the International Monetary Conference, a federation of the world's leading banks, by the IMC's board which is composed of eight major American banks. The application was denied in the hope of persuading Arab banks to join. In the event a Saudi Arabian bank which was invited to join declined to do so and no other Arab bank has yet joined the group.

JAPAN'S JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Jews of Japan celebrated the inauguration of the Tokyo Jewish Community Centre on Erev-Rosh Hashanah in the presence of Mr. Ben-Yohanan, the Israeli Ambassador designate. The three-storey building contains a synagogue, a religious school for children, a collection of Judaica, a restaurant, as well as social and athletic facilities. It will serve a Jewish community of some 110 families, half of whom are American citizens, a third Israelis, and the rest other nationalities. The synagogue is the only one in eastern Japan and will serve a community of mixed Jewish allegiances, but will be led by Rabbi Jonathan Maltzman, a graduate of the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

ICELAND'S DEMOCRATIC ROSH HASHANAH

Professor Thorir Thordason, holder of the chair in theology at the University of Iceland, described the "religious services of the Jews" as the only democratic ones of which he knew when he attended Rosh Hashanah services for the country's few Jews and Jewish servicemen of the United States Iceland Defence Force held in the campus chapel at Reykjavik. Without a rabbi available, the worshippers conducted their own service, with an elderly refugee from Nazi Germany among them and the shofar being blown by a woman serving with the defence force.

AUSTRALIA

Voting intentions of the majority of Australia's 75,000-strong Jewish community appeared to favour Mr. Malcolm Fraser's Liberal-Country Party coalition, which was returned to power in the Federal elections. An advertisement in the *Australian Jewish News* stated: "The Liberal Government has always defended Israel all over the world. Don't give Hayden and his Labour Party the chance to change that." Mr. Bill Hayden, the Labour-Party leader offended many potential Jewish supporters by a much publicised meeting with PLO leader Yassir Arafat. One of the great individual successes of the election was the overwhelming victory of Mr. Bob Hawkes, president of the powerful Australian trade union confederation. His strong pro-Israel attitude led the Arab National Federation to call upon the 12,000 Arab voters in his constituency to vote against him. There are some predictions that Bob Hawkes will shortly succeed Bill Hayden as leader of the Australian Labour Party, despite the latter's success in strongly increasing the total Labour vote in the election.

BRAZIL

Sobibor SS Man commits Suicide

Franz Gustav Wagner, the 68-year-old former deputy commandant of the Sobibor death camp in Poland, committed suicide at his home in Atiba, near Sao Paulo. It was claimed that he had made four previous attempts on his own life since his discovery in Brazil by Simon Wiesenthal in 1978. Despite requests for his extradition from West Germany, Israel, Austria and Poland on charges of complicity in the murder of 250,000 Jews and Soviet prisoners-of-war between 1942 and 1943, the Brazilian Supreme Court refused to deport the Austrian-born former Nazi SS Officer to face trial for his crimes. Wagner rejected the charges made against him, claiming that he had only been a sergeant at Sobibor in charge of constructing barracks and housing and denied ever having been to Treblinka.

BELGIAN JEWRY SAYS THANKS

Belgian Jewry paid tribute to their fellow non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps during World War II by turning up 6,000-strong to a special meeting organised by the Committee for Homage. A representative of King Baudouin, members of the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate and delegates of the Protestant and Catholic Churches were among those who witnessed the presentation of medals and certificates. During the ceremony, the Minister for Scientific Policy and Planning, Mr. José Desmaretz pledged the Government to an active policy of combating any resurgence of Nazism in Belgium. A few days later 60,000 Belgians joined a march of solidarity with their fellow Jewish citizens against the revival of fascism.

HOLLAND

Centenary Judaica Display

The Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, the Hebracia and Judaica section of Amsterdam University and City Library, celebrated its first centenary with a public exhibition of 100 items from its collection of records about Dutch Jewry. The section is named after Leiser Rosenthal (1794-1868) whose collection was accepted for the library in 1880 and now comprises more than 100,000 volumes, 800 manuscripts, 5,000 letters, 1,500 pictures and engravings and 400 broadsheets. Much of the collection was stolen and moved to Nazi Germany in 1944, but several items were safely hidden among the library's general collection and many more recovered after the war. The exhibition formed part of a programme for the symposium on the History of the Jews in the Netherlands organised by the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences.

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HISTORY REPRINTED

It must be nostalgia for the days of the Weimar era as well as the feeling of *unbewältigte Vergangenheit* which prompts German publishers nowadays to reprint journals and documents from pre-Hitler times. The volumes of Siegfried Jacobsohn's and Carl von Ossietzky's *Weltbühne* from 1918 to 1933 have been reproduced in their entirety. When Jacobsohn gave his journal, originally *Die Schaubühne* and mainly concerned with the theatre, that new name, he did so out of deep revulsion at the terrible suffering of mankind in the first World War. "May my hand rot," he wrote in 1918, "if it ever fails, even for a single week, to hammer the wickedness of war and of its advocates into my fellow-men's minds—the wickedness of those advocates who are already howling for revenge." Peace was his overriding concern and that of his successor Ossietzky, who eventually received the Nobel Peace Prize. He paid for it with his life.

But the *Weltbühne* was not the only German journal of that era which campaigned vigorously against the powers of darkness bent on preparing a new war. An even more radical weekly was *Das Andere Deutschland*, calling itself "an independent periodical for a resolutely republican policy"; it appeared from 1925 until the Nazi authorities shut it down in 1933. It had, in fact, been founded already in 1921 under the name of *Der Pazifist* by a group of peace campaigners in Hagen, but one of them, the Social Democrat Fritz Küster, took it over and began to publish it in Berlin under its new title. Now a one-volume collection of the most significant—and often prophetic—articles from *Das Andere Deutschland* has been published by the *Verlag Autoren-Edition* at Königstein/Taunus.

Several authors of these contributions also wrote regularly for the *Weltbühne*, among them Berthold Jacob, Kurt Tucholsky, Heinrich Ströbel, Otto Lehmann-Russbüldt and Friedrich W.

Foerster; Erich Kästner contributed some of his most hard-hitting poems—such as "*Wenn wir den Krieg gewonnen hätten*" with the almost blasphemous punch-line, "*Zum Glück gewannen wir ihn nicht.*" In other respects, too, the two radical weeklies had their similarities: in 1928, Fritz Küster and Berthold Jacob were the first Weimarer era journalists to be convicted by the *Reichsgericht* for revealing Germany's secret armaments, i.e. the notorious "Black Reichswehr".

Throughout its eight-year lifespan, this weekly fought for an "alternative Germany", pacifist, humanist, and progressive; it campaigned for a united front of sincere democrats, against anti-semitism and revanchism—a programme that became increasingly unpopular in the shaky Republic. "You stand outside the political camps," Romain Rolland wrote in a private letter to Fritz Küster in 1932. "You'll get it in the neck from all sides." And so he did indeed; the SPD expelled him because of his extreme anti-militarism, the Nazis kept him in a concentration camp for more than five years. The readership of the journal was never very large; it was mostly an intellectual and cultural *élite*—with Albert Einstein and Max Liebermann among the subscribers. The reprint of articles from *Das Andere Deutschland* is a valuable reminder of the period that led to Germany's worst chapter in history.

There is also a new reprint of a document whose value, however, is somewhat doubtful, the *Denkschrift des Freiburger "Bonhoeffer-Kreises"* (published by J. C. B. Mohr, Tübingen). It is a memorandum clandestinely written in 1943 by a group of Protestant university professors at Freiburg/Breisgau, which included Carl Goerdeler (executed after the 20 July putsch attempt), Otto Dibelius, Walter Eucken, Gerhard Ritter and others; Bonhoeffer himself (also murdered in 1945) did not belong to them, but the group

established itself at his suggestion to draw up a plan for a new Germany after Hitler's expected downfall. They all belonged to the *Bekennende Kirche*, a reformist movement of the Evangelical Church. The document was written in only three copies, hidden in a mountain village of the Black Forest.

"In publishing this work now", wrote Prof. Ritter in his preface for the first edition after the war, "we are of course aware that it contains much we would not repeat today." This makes it all the more puzzling why the memorandum has now been reprinted again. The scenario for a new Germany is irrelevant today, especially since the Federal Republic has managed to adopt quite a good constitution without the assistance of these pious professors; but their final chapter, headed "Suggestions for a solution of the Jewish problem in Germany", is downright outrageous, particularly as it was written at a time when Hitler's death camps were in full operation. We quote:

"It is Christendom's task to bring the gospel to all peoples. The task exists also in the case of the Jewish people, whose *decisive guilt is that they have resisted until the present day to accept God's revelation in Jesus Christ* (our italics). To accept Jews in the Christian community for extrinsic reasons, without the Christian faith having been awakened in their hearts, is a sin against the Church. But where there is faith, baptism may be granted in the hope that God's Holy Ghost will turn them into new men, helping them to overcome *dangerous tendencies and characteristics*" (our italics).

According to the Christian professors' suggestions for the post-Hitler treatment of the Jews, they should not be subjected to any special regulations "since the number of surviving and returning Jews will *not be large enough to make them a danger for the German nation*". Obviously, the authors of the memorandum were not only well aware of the holocaust—they had also swallowed a great deal of the official antisemitic propaganda: the Nazis' "justification" for mass murder.

But the good Christians of Freiburg were not content with "solving the Jewish problem" in Germany, they end their programme with recommendation on how the rest of the world should treat the Jews: An international convention should lay down their special rights and duties; these rules would be valid for all states. The Jews would have the "status of aliens" in their countries of residence. Jews who have become Christians will remain members of Jewry so long as they have not been naturalized; but petitions for naturalization "must show valid reasons" such as special services for their host countries. In other words, they must do some *Fleissaufgaben* if they want to be ordinary citizens.

Does this memorandum of 1943 make the Christian politicians of today shudder at its insensibility and absurdity? Certainly not all of them. In a postscript one of them applauds the reprint of the memorandum as a "testimonial of Christian responsibility", as a "shining example" which one should follow in our time to create lasting peace in Europe and freedom for mankind. This laudation is signed by Herr Philipp von Bismarck, Chairman of the Economic Council of the Christian Democratic Union.

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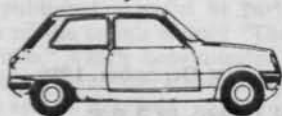
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DAVID AND GOLIATH

Unbelievable as it may sound to those remembering only the terrible atrocities of the Nazi régime in its later stages, it remains a remarkable fact that in 1933 a single Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany was able to sue the Hitler government before the League of Nations. Not only did he win his case but he also secured at least a temporary respite from anti-Jewish measures for some 10,000 Jews living in what was then German Upper Silesia. Now that the relevant files of the German Foreign Ministry are open to inspection, it seems worthwhile to bring this old story to new life.

Franz Bernheim (born 1899, later fate unknown) was a German citizen of Jewish extraction. From 1931 to April 1933 he lived in Gleiwitz, Upper Silesia (now Gliwice in Poland) as managing director of the local branch of the "Deutsches Familien-Kaufhaus". In April 1933 he was discharged "for the reason that all Jewish employees had to be dismissed". As brother-in-law Wieland Herzfelde of the left-wing Malik Verlag, Bernheim felt especially threatened and fled to Poland, where he contacted the "Demokratische Flüchtlingshilfe" organised by Kurt Grossmann.

At that time the democratic world was shocked by the first wave of anti-Jewish measures taken in the nascent Third Reich. Democratic governments, however, neither had the will towards drastic action in support of German citizens horribly discriminated against by their own rulers, nor (it was said) did they see any possibility of interfering in what was still regarded as a matter of internal policy within a member state of the League of Nations. It was left to the initiative of Jewish organisations to make skilful use of a loophole and so bring the antisemitic policy of the Berlin government before an international forum. Even if it were accepted that what happened in Germany in general was the state's own affair, this could not apply to German Upper Silesia where, by the Geneva treaty made with Poland on 15 May 1922, Germany was strictly

committed to abstain from all discriminatory acts, based on whatever grounds. When signing the treaty, Poland naturally had in mind not so much the Jewish population as the Polish minority: nevertheless the ban on discrimination could now be invoked in favour of the persecuted Jews.

Article 147 of the Geneva treaty gave every inhabitant of German Upper Silesia the right to appeal directly to the League of Nations in case of an alleged violation of the treaty commitments. Consequently, Dr. Emil Margolius, an attorney of Leitmeritz (Litomerice) and a noted expert in international law, closely connected with the Jewish (Zionist) Party of Czechoslovakia, drafted what has become known as the "Bernheim Petition". This was signed by the petitioner and presented in May 1933. The terms were not restricted to a complaint about Franz Bernheim's dismissal on racial or religious grounds but pointed out the obvious violation of all treaty obligations by the discriminatory legal enactments of the Third Reich. These were all quoted in full in the petition; with one unimportant exception they nowhere referred to the special position then obtaining in German Upper Silesia. Hence the breach of treaty obligations which they involved could scarcely be denied.

From the point of view of the Hitler régime the petition could not have come at a worse time. In his Reichstag speech of 19 May 1933, Hitler had made strenuous efforts to convince the rest of the world of his peaceful intentions. Against this, the Bernheim Petition's demonstration of his utter disregard for international commitments proved a serious obstacle.

When the matter was first discussed in the League of Nations Council on 26 May 1933—with Great Britain represented by Anthony Eden and France by Joseph Paul-Boncour—the German representative, Herr von Keller, a career diplomat, made the silliest possible excuse: that the matters complained of must have been the responsibility of "subordinate officials"—as if the German government issuing laws could have been classified as "subordinate"! Von Keller did at least admit that domestic law could not invalidate international commitments. Nevertheless he tried to argue that Bernheim, resident in Upper Silesia for only two years and now living abroad, had no right of petition, a view negated by a committee of three legal experts who decided in Bernheim's favour.

The League of Nations Council had appointed Sean Lester of the Irish Free State (later the League's last Secretary General) as Rapporteur in the case. At the meeting of 30 May, Lester submitted his report, stating that the petition was fully justified and that von Keller's statement implied that the German government would take steps to exempt Upper Silesia from discriminatory laws. This suggestion met with no response.

Eden and Paul-Boncour supported Lester, the Frenchman going further than the other speakers by expressing the view that the League of Na-

tions, having shown "such legitimate anxiety for the rights of minorities belonging to nationalities living within other frontiers, could not really ignore the right of a race scattered throughout all countries". France, he said, had insisted as early as the Congress of Berlin in 1878 that "Jews should be given equality of rights as a counterpart to France's support for the statehood of Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria". Count Raczyński, the Polish representative, appealed to Germany "to ensure equal treatment for all the Jews in Germany"—a promise he could not have made on behalf of his own country! At the next meeting, on 6 June 1933, the Council accepted the Lester Report, Germany and Italy abstaining.

Berlin still tried to wriggle out of the situation by pretending that Bernheim was not discharged on racial grounds, but for incompetence and "communist tendencies": however, the text of his letter of dismissal proved the hollowness of these belated pretenses. In the end, the German government agreed to pay him compensation and—still more important—to reinstate the Jewish civil servants, teachers and doctors in German Upper Silesia to their former posts. The 10,000 Jews of the region were exempted from all anti-Jewish measures until 15 July 1937, when the validity of the Geneva treaty expired. Thereafter they shared the fate of all other Jews in Nazi hands.

YOUNG CELLIST'S DEBUT

22-year-old cellist Stephen Isserlis, grandson of composer and concert pianist Julius Isserlis who died in Osmond House in 1968, made his concert debut at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and received well-deserved applause for his recital of Haydn's Concerto in D. With the encouragement of his grandfather, he began to learn playing the cello at the age of six. After playing the Dvorak concerto at the Altenberg Festival in Austria in 1972, he went to study at the Oberlin College in Ohio with the aid of a grant from the Royal Society of Arts. He returned to England in 1978, became one of the Greater London Arts Association Young Musicians of 1979 and won the National Federation of Music Societies' string player competition. He has now a steady flow of recital work and several projected overseas tours. On several occasions Stephen and his gifted brothers who play different instruments, have given great pleasure to the residents of the old age homes by playing to them.

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- 19 Jan. Berta Sterly und Heddy Friedmann: "Unsere Reise nach und in Australien" (with colour slides).
- 26 Jan. Gabriele Tergit spricht ueber Autobiographien von Schriftstellern.
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GERMAN TOWNS AND THEIR JEWS

ESSEN

As the result of many years of painstaking research by the city's Keeper of Public Records, Dr. Hermann Schröter, the city of Essen has recently published a memorial volume for Essen's Jewish Citizens "Geschichte und Schicksal" (published by the City of Essen, 48 marks). In 1905 and 1913, Rabbi Dr. Samuel published essays on the history of the Jews of Essen, but since then nothing had been written on the subject, and most files and other documents were destroyed by the Nazis or during the war. At the end of 1932, Essen still had a community of 4,500. For his book, Dr. Schröter had to rely on the files of the Essen Restitution Office and on the lists of deportations: (Litzmannstadt and Minsk in 1941, Izbica and Theresienstadt 1942, Auschwitz 1943), and these take up more than half of the book. Its historical part consists of some 30 fairly short essays, most of them previously published and mostly dealing with well-known people in public and in Jewish life. There is also a detailed survey on Jewish institutions, schools, synagogues, and cemeteries with a number of illustrations.

At the present moment the city is preparing a permanent exhibition on persecution and resistance in the Third Reich which will be shown in the synagogue which was destroyed in 1938, but rebuilt after the war. It will contain photos, documents, letters from concentration camps and other material supplied by some 70 citizens. According to historians, some 2,000 citizens were killed by the Nazis for reasons of race or politics. During the Nazi regime, the city harboured more than 270 camps for forced labourers and prisoners of war, most of whom working in the armaments factories.

RECKLINGHAUSEN

There is very little material about the history of Jews in Recklinghausen before 1978. In 1979, Mr. Heinz Reuter, Castrop-Rauxel, wrote a thesis on "the Jews in the Recklinghausen district, their social, economic and political situation with particular reference to the Jews of the Recklinghausen religious community". Its previous history had been condensed in a short essay by Rabbi Dr. Selig Auerbach, rabbi of Recklinghausen from 1934-1938, now Lake Placid, New York, as a contribution to the symposium "History and Life of Jews in Westphalia" (Frankfurt, 1962). In 1932 the community had some 380 members, the post-war community has 50. Reuter's book also contains a list of 476 names of Jewish inhabitants of Recklinghausen during the Third Reich with available dates and facts. The book contains a wealth of statistics on the professional and social structure of the community, on its budget and on emigration.

FULDA

Today, there are only some 25 Jews living in Fulda and its suburbs. In 1933, there were more than 3,000 who had dwindled to 60 by 1942. The community had existed since the 11th century. Its main memorial today is the cemetery, opened in 1906 and numbering some 400 graves. The city has just published a leaflet as part of its documentation of the town's history "The Jewish Cemetery in Fulda" which demonstrates that the cemetery has been given the status of an historical monument and is very well maintained. It contains the names, dates of death and numbers of graves for all those buried there and is very well illustrated. The impressive documentation is prefaced by Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Hamberger and the historian, Dr. Naftali Herbert Sonn, who in 1969 published a book on the History of the Jews of Fulda in Tel Aviv.

COLOGNE

John van Nes Ziegler, Lord Mayor of Cologne, said in a newspaper article that the recent partnership agreement between Cologne and Tel Aviv-Yaffo was the culmination of the happy relationship that had existed for many years. He said that there were now 2,000 Jews living in Cologne who had been completely integrated in the life of the city and took part in its administration. After the crimes committed by the Nazis, it had taken more than 20 years to overcome resentment and fear and live together in a spirit of tolerance. He gratefully acknowledged the contribution made by the Council of Christians and Jews, one of the first in W. Germany.

The Historical Archives of the city have just acquired an important collection of Offenbach manuscripts and letters to add to the 1,500 pieces they already possess. Offenbach was born in Cologne in 1819. The new acquisitions are shown in a special exhibition to mark the centenary of Offenbach's death. E.G.L.

MANNHEIM

The municipal authorities gave a reception for the first group of former Jewish inhabitants of Mannheim from Israel and the US who paid a first visit to their home town at the invitation of the Lord Mayor.

BONN

113 Jewish former citizens of Bonn paid a visit to the Federal capital at the invitation of the city authorities.

SIEGERLAND

33 Israelis from Emek Hefer accepted an invitation of the Siegerland Council of Christian and Jews. They were the guests of German families in the district. Klaus Dietermann, secretary of the Council, gave a talk on the history of the Siegerland Jews and accompanied them on a conducted tour of Siegen, showing them the site of the old synagogue and telling them of the events which ended Jewish life in the city. The guests also paid a visit to the Krupp Steelworks of Southern Westphalia.

LIFE UNDER THE NAZIS Pupils' Competition

The subject of this year's "Schuelerwettbewerb Deutsche Geschichte" is the behaviour of people under the Nazis. Members of the young generation are to investigate among relatives and acquaintances of theirs how the Nazi regime affected their lives. A total prize of DM 250,000—donated by the Kurt A. Koerber Stiftung in Hamburg, will be distributed among the winners of the competition. E.G.L.

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JEWS IN FRANKFURT'S MUSICAL LIFE

The restoration of the Frankfurt Opera House, which was burnt out during the war, is nearing completion. The new building will be named "Konzert-und Kongresszentrum Alte Oper Frankfurt". It will be opened on 28 August, 1981, with a performance of Mahler's Eighth Symphony.

The event brings to mind the outstanding contribution, made by Frankfurt Jewry to the musical life of the city. In his work "Die Frankfurter Oper 1924-1944" (Frankfurt 1971) the author, Professor Albert Richard Mohr, states that until 1933 about half of the subscribers to the opera were Jews and that the "Verein Opernhilfe" mainly consisted of Jewish members.

Another musical enterprise, to which Jews rendered decisive contributions as teachers and sponsors, was the Hoch'sche Konservatorium. A reference to a book by Peter Cahn about the history of that famous musical academy was published in this journal several months ago. The book pays special tribute to Bernhard Sekles (1872-1934) who was its director from 1923 until he was sacked by the Nazis in 1933. During his term of office, Sekles made a major contribution to the development of the Konservatorium. He also was a well-known composer; his works include operas which were performed all over Germany, the best known of which was "Scheherzade". He also wrote an Overture to "The Dybbuck", which unfortunately cannot be traced, and his last composition was on Psalm 137, which, however, apparently is not available either. Last but not least he was the main teacher of Paul Hindemith and other famous German composers.

When in 1927, the issue arose to convert the Hoch'sche Konservatorium into a "Hochschule", it was Wilhelm Furtwaengler who on 4 October, 1927, wrote a letter to the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt in which he said that the most suitable choice for the Directorship would be Bernhard Sekles. This letter is quoted in Peter Cahn's book.

PROMOTING ANGLO-GERMAN UNDERSTANDING

At this year's meeting of the "Arbeitskreis Featherstone Park", held on 25 October in Dusseldorf, the main speaker was the Federal German Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, Dr. J. Ruhfus. The Arbeitskreis, founded in 1960, comprises former prisoners-of-war at Featherstone Park, where Mr. Herbert Sulzbach, now Hon. President, was education officer. By its annual meetings, the Arbeitskreis has done a great deal of useful work, providing a platform for discussions between leading British personalities and former officers of the German Army. In honour of Herbert Sulzbach, who is due to retire next year, a lunch was given by the British Ambassador to the German Federal Republic.

SOVIET JEWS IN WEST BERLIN

At a meeting with representatives of the Jewish newcomers from Soviet Russia, Mr. H. Galinski, Chairman of the Berlin Jewish community, told them that Berlin's capacity to receive them was totally exhausted, and he asked them to inform their friends abroad about the seriousness of the situation. He also stated that, with the exception of the Jewish communities in Hesse, very few communities in the Federal Republic had admitted any newcomers.

Peter Ulrich, Senator for the Interior in the W. Berlin Senate, said that Berlin was proud of having once again become the largest Jewish community in the Federal Republic and having done everything possible to accept Jews from the Soviet Union. What the Senate now had decided was to treat them in the same way as other immigrants, and it was up to the other Laender to take some of them. Berlin would always be conscious of its special responsibilities for its Jewish citizens.

TEACHERS TO EXPLAIN THE PAST

Mr. G. R. Baum, the Federal Minister of the Interior, said in a newspaper interview that teachers in W. Germany should use more classroom time to discuss the Nazi rule, in order to prevent young people from being attracted to right-wing extremism. A similar drive has been started in French schools to explain the evils of Fascism and antisemitism.

H. Newman (New York)

RETURN VISIT TO BERLIN

Mrs. Hilda Newman née Caspary spent the war years in Britain and went to the US after the war where she met her husband. She came from Berlin and under the Nazis she gave poetry readings in the *Kulturbund*. Recently she passed through London on her return from Berlin and sent us a report of her visit to her home town of which we can unfortunately only give a short extract.

My husband and I arrived in Berlin on Friday, 6 June, at Tegel Airport. A young man, an American soldier stationed in Berlin, helped us with our luggage and got us a taxi. Our taxi ride started through a strange city. I was born in Berlin and came back after 41 years and recognised nothing. We had come on the invitation of the Mayor. It had taken us a long time until we were ready to go back. Gerhard's parents, my mother and many of our closest relatives and friends are amongst the six million dead. However, once in our lifetime, we wanted to see Berlin again, and now we were strangers. Nothing meant anything to us. When I saw a stream, I asked the driver, if that was the river Spree. No, it was a canal. Then I asked where the Spree was and the driver said: "I have been asked many questions, but never this one."

Mr. Hödel, our representative, regretted that he could not see us before the following Monday, as he was busy with other visitors. We came when Catholics from all over West Germany, specifically teenagers, had come to Berlin for a large meeting. On Saturday, we went to the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue and I was surprised to see so many people there, most of them teenagers, all in deep devotion, men and women sitting separated. I was a bit bewildered to see that most of the young people were in jeans and poloshirts, but all of them had their heads covered. My thoughts went back to the past. I was surprised that the Rabbi translated every prayer from Hebrew into German and explained it thoroughly. After the

service we learned that the young people were Catholics attending the big meeting. At the previous night's service, the Catholic bishop had conducted part of the service in the Fasanenstrasse Communal Centre which was filled to overflowing and recited the Lord's Prayer. On the Saturday morning Rabbi Manfred Lubliner invited us to attend a Kiddush with the young visitors, from which local Jews had been asked to abstain because of lack of room.

The young guests asked many questions. Many of them had never seen a Jewish person before; they came from small places, where there are no Jews. They were overwhelmed by the beauty of our services and surprised that we have a bread and wine ritual—they thought that this had been started by Jesus. One especially beautiful girl got up and said: "It is about time that the Pope recognises Israel." She was learning Hebrew and planned to go to Israel next year to work in a kibbutz.

In that hour I found my peace and my readiness to help building bridges.

JEWISH PAINTER'S WORKS Acquisition by East-Berlin Academy

The East Berlin Academy of Arts has acquired paintings and drawings of the late Lea Grundig (Dresden 1906-1977). The artist, was already a Communist in her student days. Under the Nazis she lived underground and, together with her husband, Hans Grundig, was active in the resistance movement. In 1941, she could save her life by fleeing to Palestine. She returned to Dresden in 1949 and became Professor at the Academy of Arts and Hon. President of the "Verband bildender Kuenstler". In many of her works, Nazi persecution and Nazi crimes are depicted, and etchings of hers were exhibited in West Berlin in 1973.

E.G.L.

SUICIDE

Former SS colonel Ernst Boje Ehlers, who was to go on trial in November charged with complicity in the deportation and murder of some 26,000 Jews from Belgium and France, killed himself at his home in Schleswig. In a farewell letter he said he was unable to face a trial. Ehlers was head of the Nazi Security Police in Belgium and Northern France from 1941 to 1944.

CATHOLIC EDITOR CHARGED

Mr. Helmut Holzappel, editor of the Wuerzburg Catholic weekly paper, was accused of publishing antisemitic statements in a series of articles on the role played by German Jews before and during the Nazi regime.

CEMETERIES DESECRATED

Some 30 tombstones in the Koeln-Deutz cemetery were severely damaged on two subsequent days. One stone was daubed with Nazi slogans.

In the Jewish cemetery of Frankfurt (Rat-Beil-Strasse), 30 tombstones were daubed with anti-semitic slogans and swastikas.

GERMAN BOOK CLUB FOR ISRAEL

The Bertelsmann publishing house has joined Israeli publishers to establish an Israeli Cultural Club aiming at enlisting 130,000 members during the next four years. The distribution of books is to rely entirely on doorstep sales. There is to be a membership fee of 17 shekels, and each member must buy a minimum of four books a year. In addition the club is to distribute records, cassettes and toys as well as books in Arabic.

OBERAMMERGAU IN 1984

To mark the 350th anniversary of the first performance of the Oberammergau Passion Play, the town council of Oberammergau voted 16 to 1 to stage a special performance in 1984. This year's summer run attracted about half a million spectators who spent more than £1 million in the town. American Jewish leaders said, after seeing this year's performance, that the play was still a "nightmare of antisemitism" and that recent textual changes had done very little to correct this.

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WORLD NEWS

EEC MEMBERS ABSTAIN IN ANTI-ISRAEL VOTE

Some significance is being attached to the abstention by the nine members of the European Economic Community when a resolution condemning Israel's recent Jerusalem Law was approved by a large majority at the recent Belgrade meeting of UNESCO. The United States and Canada joined Israel in voting against the resolution. 19 other countries also abstained and 41 countries did not participate. The motion was approved by 78 votes.

GAY GROVE NOT TO BE PLANTED

The Jewish National Fund has regretfully declined to plant a grove in the name of a Canadian group of young Jewish homosexuals, because of their insistence that the dedication should read: "Nahat—the Jewish Gay Club of Montreal." A JNF spokesman stated: "The decision was not taken without a great deal of soul-searching," but they felt they had to apply the general principle in accepting contributions that they should further the aims of the Fund not promote the interests of the donor.

ISRAEL MAKES NUCLEAR CONCESSION

Israel is to submit a resolution to the United Nations Committee on Disarmament that radically changes its previous position on nuclear policy. Until recently Israel has refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or to agree to any international inspection of its nuclear establishment. It is now expected that Israel will call for a Middle East nuclear-free zone to be negotiated urgently by all nations in the region.

LENIENCY FOR THE LOVELORN

A young West-Bank Arab convicted of belonging to a Palestine terrorist organisation was given the comparatively light sentence of 18 months because he was jilted by his Jewish girl friend. He had joined the terrorists because he was heartbroken when the girl's parents sent her to the United States to break up the three-year romance, during which time he had been preparing to convert to Judaism.

ISRAEL'S ALGERIAN RELIEF REFUSED

The Algerian Red Crescent Society has rejected an offer of tents, blankets, drugs and medical teams to help victims of the El Asnam earthquake disaster because it has come from the State of Israel. Dr. Yoel Barrami, Israel's permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva, offered the help on the direct instructions of his Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, but it was turned down "for obvious political reasons."

EEC OFFICE DISPUTE SETTLED

The lengthy dispute over the siting of the proposed European Economic Community legation in Israel has been resolved by locating its main headquarters in Tel Aviv with a small branch office in Jerusalem.

DOMINICAN MONK IN UNIVERSITY CHAIR

A deeply committed Christian Zionist, Father Marcel Dubois, a 60-year-old Dominican monk, has been appointed head of the Philosophy Department of the Hebrew University. He is the first non-Jewish Israeli citizen to become the head of a department at an Israeli University.

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FRANCE

Arms deal with Saudi Arabia

France has entered a £1.4 billion arms agreement with Saudi Arabia. It includes the construction and supply of four 2,000-ton frigates, two 17,000-ton oil-tenders and a range of helicopters and surface-to-surface missiles. French state-owned companies and shipyards form part of the consortium to fulfil the massive contract.

Disquieting Opinion Poll

An opinion poll held in France following the bomb attack on the Liberal synagogue in Rue Copernic, Paris, revealed that 10 per cent of the French population does not consider Jews to be equal French citizens and that one in every eight believes there are too many Jews in France. Some 49 per cent thought there were too many North Africans in the country, which is from where 60 per cent of France's 700,000 Jews originate.

Jail sentence for Racist Leader

Marc Fredriksen, leader of the French right wing party Faisceau National Europeen, successor organisation to the banned FANE organisation, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and fined 3,000 francs for writing articles that incited hate and racial violence and made excuses for Nazi war crimes and French collaboration with the enemy. 12 months of the sentence was suspended by the court, adjudicating on a civil prosecution brought by five anti-racial and French resistance organisations. Fredriksen did not appear for sentencing as he was recovering from wounds he received in a scuffle between himself and his bodyguard and a group of young Jewish militants.

Neo-Nazi infiltration of Police Admitted

After first denying charges that the French police had been infiltrated by Nazi sympathisers, the French Interior Minister told the Senate that 18 members of the force were on a list of 3,400 people suspected of being rightist militants or sympathisers and a full enquiry would be made into their activities. The admission, made in the wake of deep public concern over the recent Paris synagogue bombing and attacks on Jewish institutions, had the edge taken off its effectiveness by the accusation of Judge Guy Jolley, in charge of the enquiry into these events, that the interrogations and searches had been made on only a very restricted number of Nazi groups. "Carried out in this fashion," he stated, "the enquiry could only be crowned with failure."

EXCITING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND IN ITALY

The cornerstone of an important Jewish communal building, possibly a synagogue, dating from between the third and fifth centuries has been discovered in Venosa in Southern Italy. The find has been made by Professor Eric Meyers, head of Judaic archaeological and bible studies of Duke University, North Carolina, who is currently engaged in a survey for the World Jewish Congress "Heritage Committee", which has selected the Venosa catacombs as the pilot scheme in a long-term project to safeguard Jewish antiquities in the diaspora. Professor Meyers believes that these underground burial chambers may give proof of extensive Jewish settlement in the region, which may mean a revision of the theory of westward emigration of Jews prior to the time of Constantine the Great.

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DROP-OUT RATE WORRIES CONFERENCES

One of the principal concerns of the recent international conference on Soviet Jewry held in Copenhagen was the high rate of "drop-outs"—Jews leaving the Soviet Union emigrating to countries other than Israel. The two-day meeting of the praesidium of the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry described the drop-out rate as "worrying" and a "serious threat to the entire Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union." It was reported that an agreement had been reached between the Jewish Agency, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to provide assistance to only those drop-outs who had first-degree relatives in the West. It was understood, however, that the Council of Jewish Federations in the USA had rejected the proposal and that differences also existed between some of the major diaspora organisations and the Jewish Agency over the treatment of drop-outs after their arrival in Vienna.

BOKHARAN PROBLEM IN VIENNA

The Viennese Jewish community have refused a request by the Austrian authorities to stand surety for some 600 Bokharan Jews who have arrived there. They came on Israeli passports and expecting to receive American visas, having been encouraged in that belief by the Neturei Karta and the assistance given to earlier arrivals by a Catholic charity. The charity is now demanding that the Bokharans should stay at their reception centres, but they are refusing to do so and the Neturei Karta source of US visas has dried up. Their plight has been aggravated by the luggage of all 600 going astray.

AN INTERNATIONAL SOS

Close to 8,000 scientists and engineers from 44 countries have suspended scientific relations with the Soviet Union because of their opposition to the jailing and oppression of dissident Soviet scientists. The boycott has been organised by the SOS Committee, which has taken its initials from the surnames of three of the best-known persecutees—Anatoly Shcharansky, Uri Orlov and Andrei Sakharov. The moratorium is to run at least until the conclusion of the CSCE (Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Conference in Madrid, to draw the attention of the 35 participating governments to the depth of concern in the scientific community for the well-being of their colleagues in Russia and their full support for their courageous and heroic efforts to press for full compliance with the Helsinki agreements. The scientists pledging this support includes 32 Nobel laureates, 187 members of the US National Academy of Sciences, 82 Fellows of the Royal Society of London, and members of the French and Italian academies of science.

"GOLDSTEINS OF THE WORLD UNITE"

Campaigners for Soviet Jewry have thought up a new method of drawing attention to the plight of two of them, meteorologist Grigory Goldstein and his brother, physicist Isai Goldstein. They are calling upon Jews throughout the world bearing the same surname to lobby politicians and other public figures to bring about their release from detention in the USSR. Those taking part in the "Goldsteins for Goldsteins" campaign are being asked to write to the brothers on Jewish holidays and Human Rights Day, 10 December. Their addresses are: Grigory Goldstein, USSR, Tbilisi, 380080, Oktiabrskaya 2-01, Mikror-n-2.63; and Isai Goldstein, USSR, Tbilisi, Oktiabrskaya 2, Mikror-n-124. The campaign on their behalf is being coordinated in Britain by the National Council for Soviet Jewry, 183-189 Finchley Road, London NW3 6LD (tel.: 01-624 0181/2).

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR WALTER KAUFMANN

It is learned with regret that Walter Kaufmann, Professor of Philosophy in Princeton, has died, hardly 60 years old. Brought up in Berlin from where he emigrated in 1939, he was one of the outstanding members of that generation of Jews from Germany, which was still able to absorb the values of their country of origin and young enough to integrate fully into the culture of their new homeland. Thus, Walter Kaufmann translated works by Buber and Leo Baeck, whom he also knew personally and wrote books in English about religious and philosophical subjects. In 1961, he was awarded the Leo Baeck Prize of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany. His mother was the sister of Dr. Julius L. Seligsohn, who voluntarily stayed in Germany as one of the leading personalities of the "Reichsvertretung" and perished in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp in 1942.

KONRAD ZWEIG

Mr. Konrad Zweig, the distinguished economist has died, aged 75. A graduate of the University of Vienna, he joined the Institute of World Economics at Kiel University but his work there was interrupted by the advent of the Nazis and led to his coming to England, where he built up an economic intelligence service for J. Lyons & Co., whom he served for nearly 40 years. He spent much of his retirement explaining German economic policy to British people.

LADISLAS FARAGO

Hungarian-born author, Ladislav Farago, died in New York aged 72. He wrote more than a dozen books on world affairs, war and espionage. His book on the US General George Patton was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film, but he achieved his greatest fame for a series of articles in the *Daily Express*, claiming that Martin Bormann had not died during the German collapse in 1945, but had escaped to Argentina. It was later claimed that Farago had been the victim of a hoax, but he maintained the truth of his story, which was later published in book-form in 1974 under the title "Aftermath."

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.

Birthday

Willner:— Mrs. Elsa Willner of 17 Cleve Road, N.W.6, celebrated her 91st birthday on 26 November.

Deaths

Apelbaum:— Mrs. Else Apelbaum of 15 Haver Court, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3, beloved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, passed away peacefully on 6 November.

Berlowitz:— Elisabeth, née Fried, of 30 Mohilewer, 58354 Holon, Israel, passed away peacefully on 26 September in her 58th year after a long illness, patiently borne. Deeply mourned by her husband Seew, her children and grandchildren, her sisters Irene, Melitta, Kornelia, Hannah, her brother Ludwig Fried, Im Ettingerhof 8, CH 4055 Basle, Switzerland, and all their families.

Brink:— Margaret Brink of Farnham, Surrey, passed away on Sunday, 2 November. Mourned by relatives and friends.

Fischer:— Mrs. Anny Fischer of Osmond House passed away after a long illness on 17 October, aged 85. Sadly missed by her family.

Lichtenstern:— Olga Lichtenstern, née Loew, died at Nottingham on 19 October, deeply mourned by her daughters Edith Lee and Kate Fielding, her granddaughters, other relatives and friends.

Mayer:— Dr. Michael Mayer of 17 Grove Hall Court, London, N.W.8, passed away peacefully on 13 October at the age of 79. Dearly beloved husband of Steffi, adored and greatly missed father of Eli and Ralph, father-in-law and devoted grandfather. May God rest his soul.

Norton:— Ernst Julius Norton of 8 Marlborough Mansions, Cannon Hill, London, N.W.6, peacefully died in his sleep at home on 29 October, dearly beloved husband of Emma, loving father and grandfather.

Rapoch:— Eugen Rapoch of 200 Easterly Road, Leeds, died very suddenly on 6 November, deeply mourned by his devoted wife and his friends. He will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

Schott:— Sidney Schott of 15 Metfield Croft, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0NN, died 30 September. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. He will always be remembered.

Mlle. ROSE VALLAND

Mlle. Rose Valland, who was responsible for saving many works of art at the Louvre and other Paris collections from confiscation by the Nazis during the war has died at the age of 81. She was Curator of the Jeu de Paume gallery in Paris, which the Gestapo Branch in charge of confiscating works of art of Jews and Freemasons used as their headquarters between 1940 and 1944, and kept on by them because of her expert knowledge particularly in the field of impressionist paintings. Although not able to save all works of art that passed through her hands, she kept records of their destination and thus was able after the war, when sent to Germany in charge of French artistic recuperation to recover many items between 1945 and 1953. Her most successful operation while the war was still on was in August 1944. She alerted French railway workers that the Germans planned to send 52 wagon-loads of art objects to Berlin so that they could divert them until Paris was liberated. After the war she was awarded the Medaille de la Resistance, the US Medal of Freedom and the Legion d'Honneur.

MEIER TZELNIKER

The Jewish character actor, Meier Tzelniker, has died at the age of 82. Born in Bessarabia, he first acted in the Yiddish Theatre in young boy roles. At 19 he went to Odessa to study at the State Dramatic Theatre and spent five years touring in Russian plays, before returning to acting in Yiddish plays. For many years he toured the continental Yiddish theatres, eventually settling in England in 1936. He formed the Jewish National Theatre at the Adler Hall in East London, later moving it to the Pavilion Theatre. When this was bombed in the London Blitz, he moved to Leeds, returning to London in 1943 to play his most famous part, Chatzkel Latutin in the "King of Lampedusa," the longest running play in the history of the Yiddish Theatre. He subsequently appeared in many English-language plays and made his film debut in 1948.

DR. ARTHUR BEER

Dr. Arthur Beer, whose outstanding achievements were mentioned in this journal only a few months ago on the occasion of his 80th birthday, died on 20 October. He was widely known in the international astronomical community, writes *The Times* in its two-column obituary.

ERIC KORNER

Mr. Eric Korner, who was associated with the banking house S. G. Warburg & Co., has died at the age of 87. He remained fully active until well into his eighties, and only a few months ago did he retire from his activities in the firm. Mr. Korner was born in Austria. "With his passing (writes *The Times*) the City of London has lost an outstanding adopted son." A long standing member of the AJR, he kept his links with his community of origin.

RABBI H. HIRSCHBERG

Rabbi Dr. Harris (Hans) Hirschberg who, prior to his emigration, was Rabbi in Oppeln, died in the US in his 80th year. He was for 22 years Rabbi of Temple Judea in Tarzana, one of the greatest Reform Synagogues in the Los Angeles district.

RABBI D. NELLHAUS

Rabbi Dr. Dagobert Nellhaus died in the Jewish Rehabilitation Center in Roslindale (Massachusetts) shortly before his 90th birthday. Before he went to America, he was Rabbi in Pirmasenz.

KLEMPERER WELCOME TO LOS ANGELES

Werner Klemperer, son of the late Otto Klemperer, whose own fame is related to playing the part of Col. Klink, the Nazi commandant of the fictitious P.O.W. camp in the American TV series "Hogan's Heroes", is to act as host to the Berlin-Los Angeles 200 Festival, which opened with a new opera, "The Sinking of the Titanic", on 8 November. Werner Klemperer was born in Berlin, but grew up in Los Angeles, which is now celebrating its 200th anniversary. His father became director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1933 after being forced out of Germany by the Nazis. More than 400 Berlin artists, technicians and design engineers will be included in the festival.

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HONOURS AND AWARDS

FOUR NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

Four of this year's Nobel Prize winners announced to date are known to be Jewish. They are: Professor Baruj Benacerraf, of Harvard University, who shares the prize for medicine and has expressed great pride at being "the first Sephardi Jew" to win the award; bio-chemist Professor Paul Berg of Stanford University, California, who shares the award for work in genetic engineering; Professor Lawrence Klein of Pennsylvania, who gained the Economics Award; and Professor Walter Gilbert, of Harvard, who also shared the Genetics Award. Professor Gilbert is a grandson of Joseph Cohen, editor of the former anarchist Yiddish newspaper, *Freie Arbeiter Stimme* and the son-in-law of leading American journalist, I. F. Stone.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Bayard Ruston, the American civil rights leader, who is President of the Black Americans to Support Israel Committee, has received the Joseph Prize for Human Rights. The honour, in the form of a medallion and a \$10,000 stipend, has been bestowed on him by the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai Brith, who described Mr. Ruston as "a man ahead of his time."

KURT HAHN FELLOWSHIP FUND

In 1966, on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Kurt Hahn, founder of Gordonstoun School, a few friends gathered at Salem Castle in Germany under the chairmanship of King Constantine of Greece, one of his pupils, to set up the "Round Square Conference" as an annual forum for the discussion of his ideas. It was named after the Gordonstoun building that circles a square lawn. This year, the 13th Round Square Conference was held at Box Hill School near Dorking and attended by over 200 delegates from 13 member schools spread over three continents. Since 1966, many of Hahn's pupils, members of several royal families among them, have grown up and taken their place in the world. Schools in Australia, Switzerland, Germany, Greece, the United States, Canada, and last but not least Britain, have adopted Kurt Hahn's ideas and are run in his spirit. The attendants of the recent conference decided to honour his memory by launching a series of scholarships for poor Indian pupils to attend independent schools there and to set up an emergency rescue service, manned by pupils and teachers to fly to India's disaster areas.

Hahn came to Britain in 1934 and founded Gordonstoun school with two pupils, among them Mark Arnold-Foster, now European editor of the *Guardian*. Prince Philip who had been a pupil at

Salem on Lake Constance from where Hahn had been driven away by the Nazis, soon afterwards transferred to Gordonstoun. At the outbreak of war, the school had 15 boys and Prince Philip was Guardian (head prefect). In 1945 Hahn converted to Anglicanism.

DR. GERTRUD LUCKNER HONOURED

Dr. Gertrud Luckner, to whom we recently paid tribute on the occasion of her 80th birthday, was awarded the 1980 Buber-Rosenzweig Medal of the German Co-ordination Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation. The testimonial refers to Dr. Luckner's "untiring activities for the promotion of a better relationship between Christians and Jews, her editorship of the 'Freiburger Rundbriefe', and her solidarity with Jews at a time, when humanitarianism was considered as a crime". As we already mentioned in our birthday tribute, Dr. Luckner courageously carried out her clandestine relief work during the Nazi period at great sacrifice to herself and had to spend the last two years of the war in Ravensbrueck concentration camp. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Dr. Luckner on this well-deserved further recognition of her outstanding work.

LEGACIES

Miss Martha Eckstein left one third of the residuary of her estate to the AJR Charitable Trust.

Miss Margaret Cohen left a legacy of £200 to the AJR Charitable Trust.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Molnar Redivivus. The continued popularity of the plays by Hungarian-born Ferenc (Franz) Molnar is an ever-recurring feature of 20th century theatre. Very few dramatists of our time achieved fame in so many different ways. He was an intense observer, cynical and debonair, and—above all—immensely productive. His comedies (and a few more serious attempts) have survived many changes of taste and are included in the repertoires of theatres all over Europe. At present "Liliom" has had a revival in Salzburg, "Spiel im Schloss" (known in Britain as "The Play's the Thing") is at Vienna's "Kammerspiele" (with Hans Jaray) and "The Guardsman" was a success at the London National Theatre a few years ago. Molnar who died in his United States exile in 1952 joined the playwright's

league when his comedy "The Swan" was filmed with Alec Guinness and Grace Kelly.

Music in Israel. The Jerusalem Opera Society which came into the limelight last year with Verdi's "Othello", visited Tel Aviv with an ambitious performance of the "Beggar's Opera" as arranged by Benjamin Britten. Israel's reviewers call choreography, decor and the liveliness of production a "total success of a dimension so far not experienced in this country. The National Opera Company included "Carmen" and "Don Giovanni" in their 1980 programme, and the biblical musical "Joseph and the amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber rounded off a season of dynamic work and continued progress.

Birthdays. *Hermann Thimig*, now the senior of this great actor family which has been connected with the Austrian stage since 1874, is 90 years old. Though no longer active, he still attends every dress rehearsal at the "Burg" and takes a great interest in the house, its plays and ensemble. *Max Schmeling*, the world-famous boxing ex-champion, now manager of several Coca Cola branches in Germany, married to former film star *Anny Ondra*, is 75. S.B.

EINSTEIN MUSEUM IN BERNE

A small Einstein Memorial Museum has been opened in the flat at Kramgasse 49, which was occupied by Albert Einstein from 1902-1907, when he held a position at the Swiss Patent Office in Berne.

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