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INFORMATION

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ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Lucie Schachne

CONFRONTATION OR DIALOGUE

Symposium on German-Jewish Relations

Even now, after the public discussion of German-Jewish relations at the General Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Brussels, it remains doubtful whether this debate between representatives of the German and the Jewish people really marks "the beginning of the process of German-Jewish co-existence", as it was envisaged by Dr. Nahum Goldmann.

It is true that the event was welcomed by official German circles and made headlines in the German Press. It is also noteworthy that it apparently drew thousands of Germans to their television-screens. But, then, does not a dialogue by definition need partners who are ready to talk and to listen? Judging by the circumstances which preceded, surrounded and followed the confrontation of Germans and Jews at the Palais de Congres, we cannot but doubt the readiness of the Jewish partner for this dialogue. It is a grave issue that concerns every Jew of our generation wherever he may live. In order to see this in the right perspective, we have to examine the facts which aroused the Assembly to the quick and generated an unusual heat in their arguments.

An imaginative agenda had attracted a record attendance to this Fifth Plenary Session of the World Jewish Congress. The gathering constituted a fair representation of world Jewry, reflecting all shades of opinion—from Left to Right, from Orthodox to Liberal. The political and cultural subjects under discussion highlighted present-day challenges to Jewry's fight for survival—a survival in the meaning of Dr. Nahum Goldmann's very own definition: "We have won the fight to be equal, now we must fight for the right to be different".

Accepting the "fight for survival" as the marching-order of the Assembly, highest priority had to be given to the future of the 3,000,000 Jews in Soviet Russia. Unfortunately, any hope which some delegates might have entertained, of going home with some guidance, was quickly dispelled. The impassioned debate frequently sank to the level of a controversy between the audience and the President. Early in the proceedings Dr. Goldmann had compared the art of policy making to the performance of an orchestra. If he was to be taken as the conductor he certainly did not manage to make the musicians play in tune with him. However hard he tried he could not convince his players that the sound volume he considered adequate in protests directed towards the Kremlin was sufficient. The search for a concerted policy remained without success. A distressed Assembly had to resign themselves to the drafting of mere resolutions.

If the failure to produce a constructive policy on this issue spread gloom and frustration, the mood changed considerably when it

came to the discussion on German-Jewish relation. A veritable storm broke. The clouds had gathered over some time prior to the opening of Congress. Numerous sections (and individuals) strongly objected to the holding of a symposium "Germans and Jews—a Problem Unresolved".

Dr. Goldmann's invitation to Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, President of the Bundestag, had brought the matter to a head. The opposition had carried the issue into the Executive Meeting as late as the eve of the opening session. In spite of the President's threat to resign, representatives of Mapam, Cherut, Achduth Avodah and Israeli organisations of resistance fighters repeated their challenge in open session. They demanded the cancellation of the symposium. They opposed the dialogue with the Germans, going to the length of actually boycotting the event on the grounds that the time for "mutual exchanges" had not yet come. In their view, it could, in fact, never come for this generation, which, on the Jewish side, consisted of the survivors of the Holocaust, and, on the other side, included people "who had marched to the tune of the Horst Wessel Lied, of the S.S. and Gestapo". On behalf of Cherut, Mr. Ben-Ari denied the right of the W.J.C. to speak on behalf of the Jewish people on this vital issue. To him and his colleagues there was no possibility of building bridges of reconciliation between Jews and Germans.

It would create a wrong impression of the general mood in the Hall if reference were only made to this organised and methodical opposition which, at times, led to acrimonious arguments with the President. There was, indeed, bitterness and deep resentment among the ranks of all sections. To them the *raison d'être* of this Congress was discussion and formulation of political and cultural programmes. To make it the forum for a confrontation with Germans was regarded by many as an imposition.

The protests heard in the corridors reflected a natural resistance to this trespassing into the intimate regions where we mourn our dead ones. On the other hand, the President had spoken of the necessity for the Jewish people not to ignore the reality of Germany today and to find a way of co-existence in a world where Jews and Germans had to live. Emotions and sentiments, he said, were a matter of the individual.

A great number, of course, agreed with Dr. Goldmann, and among them were many who, as individuals, had resumed former contacts they had had with individual Germans. Some of them had also visited Germany and must have found promising signs for a change of heart in certain circles. For them it was appar-

ently easier to follow the "realistic" approach, if realistic be the right word. Who would dare to judge—in the face of this collective reluctance to talk—what was more real: the emotions of Jewish survivors or the demands of "Realpolitik"? Eventually the "dialogue" was retained on the agenda. It is, however, hard to say whether the delegates only yielded to the pleas of their President or were really won over by his reasoning.

As previously agreed, the declarations of the dissenting sections were read in public. After this a number of individual delegates left the Hall. The large audience which remained sat quietly, prepared to listen to speeches which were delivered by Professors Gershom Scholem, Golo Mann and Salo Baron and by Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, President of the German Bundestag.

Each of the first three addresses was a learned dissertation. The speakers gave an historical outline of German-Jewish relations, and all three, in their own way and somewhat contradictory to each other, were probing into the reasons for the final catastrophe. Although the lecturers started with personal statements, e.g., Professor Scholem's, who said: "I deem it right and even important that Jews talk to Germans as Jews, in full consciousness of what has happened, and without any attempt to obliterate the differences between them", I doubt whether their words actually reached their listeners. If they did not, it was not the fault of the audience. Here was not the occasion for scholarly analysis, however brilliant and valid their content. This was not the level to set the tune for a dialogue on this issue.

It was only when Dr. Gerstenmaier stood up against the two blue and white flags—the Israeli and the W.J.C. emblem—facing the German television cameras, and thanked the W.J.C. for having invited him, that the Assembly became attentive. "I regard the invitation of the W.J.C. to speak here as a special distinction", he said, "but I gravely doubt whether it is possible for a German, who speaks not for himself but for his country, to make his voice heard across the abyss which separates Jews from Germans. I understand quite well those among you who opposed this initiative; and I understand why some of you might close their ears in order not to hear a German voice, whatever it may have to say".

"Today, even more than 20 years later, this debt of blood looms inescapably over us. Such a cloud of darkness and aimlessness emanates from it that many Germans are utterly unable to face it. . . . This is precisely the reason why this hour must have a meaning for us Germans".

He, too, gave his explanation of how the Nazis managed to seize power. He quoted from Golo Mann's lecture the words with which Mann's Jewish grandfather, Professor Pringsheim, resigned himself to a harsh Nazi order: "If such are the instructions. . . ." These five words, Gerstenmaier said, could be inscribed as a caption on the whole catastrophe of German Jews, being as characteristically German

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CONFRONTATION OR DIALOGUE

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as anything could be. But, and these were his concluding words: "We Germans may possibly have to accept for a long time that patient and respectful distance, which is probably the only appropriate attitude in face of the impossibility of forgetting the catastrophe."

When Dr. Gerstenmaier finished his address by saying: "I thank you as an individual, and the German Bundestag thanks the World Jewish Congress", the applause of the audience was spontaneous and lasted long enough to prove that Dr. Gerstenmaier had not come in vain.

From the Jewish side, it was Dr. Joachim Prinz who became a "partner" in this dialogue. His contribution was a matter-of-fact statement of the Jewish case. He believed in the possibility and necessity of a conversation between the two peoples, although he did not see that this dialogue could lead to anything concrete. But, he stated, "a relationship of decency and honesty which should exist between Germans and Jews would forever be impossible if the German people did not clearly understand that the payment of reparations and restitution was irrelevant, and if the German authorities did not make a genuine effort to teach their own people what was the real lesson of the past".

After the Event

The German Press gave the events in Brussels wide coverage. While the boycott of the radical parties was fully understood, the attempt to hold this dialogue was mostly welcomed. It was conspicuous how many reports stressed the positive aspect of "a beginning", quoting those lecturers who had at least pointed to the possible building of bridges. There was, however, more than one opinion regarding the significance of this "experiment" which was described by the *Rheinische Post* as "daring", and of which the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* said it was "not without risk". *Die Welt* was optimistic: "It was not to be expected that this symposium could have ended with a resolution and we must not regard it as a feast of reconciliation. This does not mean that there were not any results. The benefit lies in the discussion itself."

The experiment, and I think that this is, indeed, the appropriate term, having been made, results have to be carefully watched and examined. On both sides. If there really was a dialogue between the two peoples on this occasion, many questions have to be answered. A major one seems to me whether the Jews of German origin—as an integral part of our people—are willing to play a special part.

WIEDERERWERB DER OESTERREICHISCHEN STAATSANGEHOERIGKEIT

Die Konsularabteilung der Oesterreichischen Botschaft macht auf Par. 58 des oesterreichischen Staatsbuergerschaftsgesetzes 1965 aufmerksam, der folgendes bestimmt:

Einem Fremden (Auslaender) ist die oesterreichische Staatsbuergerschaft zu verleihen, wenn er

- (1) am 5. Maerz 1933 die oesterr. Staatsbuergerschaft besessen hat;
- (2) sich nach diesem Zeitpunkt wegen befuerteter oder erlittener politischer Verfolgung in das Ausland begab;
- (3) vor dem 19. Jaenner 1950 die oesterr. Staatsbuergerschaft verloren hat;
- (4) die Verleihung der Staatsbuergerschaft bis 30. Juni 1969 beantragt.

Zu den Voraussetzungen fuer die Verleihung der oesterreichischen Staatsangehoerigkeit gehoert unter anderem, dass der Antragsteller alle fuer das Ausscheiden aus seinem fruerehen Staatsverband erforderlichen Handlungen vornimmt, d.h. dass er auf die fremde Staatsangehoerigkeit formell verzichtet.

Die Ansuchen um Verleihung der Staatsbuergerschaft sind an das Amt derjenigen Landesregierung zu richten, zu deren Bereich der Geburtsort des Antragstellers gehoert. Personen, die im Ausland geboren sind, richten ihr Ansuchen an das Amt der Wiener Landesregierung in Wien. Alle Ansuchen sind der oesterreichischen Botschaft in London zur Weiterleitung zu uebergeben. Die Botschaft wird dem Antragsteller ueber den weiteren Verlauf der Angelegenheit zeitgerecht Nachricht geben.

NEW HEAD OF LUDWIGSBURG OFFICE

Herr Erwin Schuele, head of the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes at Ludwigsburg since its formation in 1958, resigned on September 1 to become chief of the Stuttgart City prosecutor's office. His successor is Herr Adalbert Rueckerly, a Stuttgart prosecutor.

Recently Schuele was attacked by the Communist press for alleged participation in war crimes. The Soviet Union made an offer for Nazi war crime investigators to travel to Russia "to examine all witnesses against whom Schuele committed crimes". He was earlier accused by the Soviet authorities of ordering the execution of Russian prisoners and beating defenceless civilians during the Second World War. West German inquiries fell through when Soviet witnesses failed to arrive for investigators to hear their evidence. Schuele has confirmed that he was convicted by a Soviet military court in 1945, but the trial he said was "without defence counsel and lasted just five minutes."

GOLDMANN ON GERMAN TV

Dr. Nahum Goldmann has been strongly attacked for his reported remark on West German television: "It is good that Jews are living in Germany again". His home in Jerusalem was also daubed with insults.

At a press conference in Jerusalem Dr. Goldmann claimed that the Israeli press had distorted what he had said. Israeli newspapers had become "a menace to the country" and delighted in character assassination, he declared. Hysteria on the subject of Germany was developing in Israel. It was wrong of Israelis to accept German money while insulting Germany day and night. He believed there was no future for Jews in Germany.

To members of the Jewish Agency at an all-day plenary executive, Dr. Goldmann denied having said on German television that it was good that Jews were living in Germany. There was no possibility of the Jews forgetting or forgiving those crimes, but the question remained of the co-existence of two peoples with common problems which required a solution.

"TOO EARLY FOR RECONCILIATION"

In an interview on the eve of his 60th birthday Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, the president of the West German Parliament, warned that it is too early for the Germans to expect reconciliation with the Jews. He declared that the best thing the Germans can do is to continue to offer financial restitution for the crimes of the Nazis, and to give all who are interested an opportunity to see that the Germany of today has broken completely with the evils of the past.

YOUNG JEWS VISIT GERMANY

This year's annual international youth rally of the World Union for Progressive Judaism included a visit to Düsseldorf, where the participants met about 30 young Germans and had frank discussions with them. The debates were preceded by talks about the present political position in the Federal Republic and about the Jews in post-war Germany. The speakers included Dr. H. G. van Dam and Mr. H. Spiegel, of the *Zentralrat*; Mr. K. H. Lingen, of the *Jugendring Duesseldorf*; Mr. H. Sulzbach, of the German Embassy in London; Ministerialrat Nachtwey and Dipl. Volkswirt Kohlenbach. The questions put before the speakers reflected the young visitors' misgivings about extreme Right-wing trends in Germany. On the other hand, according to several reports, both the debates and the informal personal contacts gradually resulted in an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding.

GERMAN ROSH HASHANA MESSAGES

In his Rosh Hashana message President Heinrich Luebke assured the West German Jewish community that the State was their State too, "protecting and binding us all in the same way".

The New Year message of the Central Council of Jews in Germany contained a warning that one of the duties towards the survivors of the Holocaust was vigilance to curb all tendencies incompatible with humanity. Incidents in the past year had proved the need for such vigilance. They should not be underrated as the excesses of a few outsiders or immature adolescents.

Mr. Asher Ben-Natan, the Israeli Ambassador, said the duty of his embassy was to promote a new beginning in all fields, and particularly in that of human contacts.

RETRIAL IN VIENNA

The retrial has opened in Vienna of Franz Novak, one of Adolf Eichmann's closest accomplices in the deportation of Hungarian Jews to the gas chambers. Novak was tried in 1964 and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment on counts of "actions and omissions endangering the lives" of Jews he sent to death camps. In December, 1965, the Austrian high court quashed the verdict on the ground that the lower court had found Novak guilty only of "endangering human lives".

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HOME NEWS

IN PARLIAMENT

Arab Boycott

In reply to a question by Mr. George H. Perry, Mr. Douglas Jay, President of the Board of Trade, said that no representations had been received from firms in this country which transacted business with firms in Israel concerning the intention of the Arab League to boycott them. Representations had, however, been received from several M.P.s on behalf of one firm already on the black list. Mr. Jay said he had reaffirmed the Government's strong disapproval of any outside interference with the freedom of British firms to trade.

Antisemitic Circulars

In the Commons Mr. Quintin Hogg brought to the attention of the Home Secretary the circulation through the post of antisemitic literature designed to re-establish credence in the notorious forgery, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion". Mr. Hogg asked what consideration had the Minister given to the circulation of this literature as an offence against the Race Relations Act and what steps had he taken to identify those responsible.

Mr. Jenkins replied that the document had been referred to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis. There was, however, insufficient evidence to enable the sender to be identified.

Soviet Jewry Motion

The motion on Soviet Jewry sponsored by Sir Ian Orr-Ewing and Sir Barnett Janner has been signed by 180 M.P.s. Noting with concern the continuing difficulties confronting Jews in the Soviet Union, the motion calls on the Government to use its good offices to secure for them the basic human rights afforded to other Soviet citizens.

The sponsors of the motion consider that its continued appearance on the order paper and the fact that it has received such large support, will impress Soviet statesmen. The Government has said that it can see no way in which to bring the plight of Soviet Jews to the attention of the Russian leaders.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Dr. David Kerr, M.P. for Wandsworth Central, has been appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mrs. Judith Hart, Minister of State at the Commonwealth Office. Dr. Kerr entered Parliament for the first time in the October, 1964, General Election.

PROVOKED TO BREAK IN

Two Jewish men, Manny Carpel and Michael Cohen, tried to break into a printing shop at Stoke Newington because they thought the firm was publishing fascist literature. At North London Magistrates' Court it was stated that the firm, W. H. Jones, had published literature for John Tyndall's Greater Britain Movement but ceased to do so in May last year. The firm had printed an antisemitic and anti-coloured publication, "Spearhead."

Pleading guilty to attempting to break into the premises with intent to commit a felony and to possessing housebreaking implements by night, Carpel was fined £10 on each charge and ordered to pay 10 guineas costs. Cohen was granted a conditional discharge for twelve months. The magistrate commented that the provocation had obviously been very very great.

CATHEDRAL SWASTIKAS

Black Swastikas and slogans were found painted on the pillars and walls of the Great Porch of Coventry Cathedral. The largest slogan, three feet high, read: "End Jewish Control." Beneath the slogans were the initials "N.S.M.", taken to mean the National Socialist Movement.

LABOUR INVITES ISRAELI

The British Labour Party has invited Mrs. Golda Meir, former Israeli Foreign Secretary and now general secretary of Mapai, to address a public meeting at Brighton on the eve of its annual conference. The invitation is the first to an Israeli politician to attend a session of a Labour Party conference, and is regarded as a friendly gesture towards Mapai and a recognition of Israel's work in African countries.

Mrs. Meir and Mr. Brig Moagam Tofan, of India, will be the only foreign speakers at Labour's traditional pre-conference demonstration.

RACE RELATIONS ACT

Resolutions submitted to the Labour Party annual conference call for extensions to the Race Relations Act in the fields of housing, employment and credit facilities. One resolution draws attention to synagogue arson and to the incitement to racial hatred contained in neo-Nazi publications. Another proposes making the distribution of all types of literature tending to incite racial or religious hatred a punishable offence.

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

The National Union of Journalists put forward a resolution to the delegates at the 98th annual conference of the Trades Union Congress held at Blackpool, to "reaffirm" the opposition of Congress "to all forms of racial discrimination."

The report of the T.U.C. General Council contained a favourable reference to the Afro-Asian Institute of the Histadrut (the Israeli Federation of Labour), to which the T.U.C. had made two annual scholarship grants of £2,000 each. Another grant to the Histadrut has been made in respect of the study course for 1966-67.

ECONOMIC CRISIS AND FASCIST DANGER

Alderman Michael Fidler, president of the Council of Manchester and Salford Jews, has warned that there could be a resurgence of fascist activity as a result of the present economic crisis. The crisis would also throw a greater strain on the community's charitable organisations, he said.

The chairman of Leeds Ajex, Mr. M. Klugerman, has also said that the present economic crisis demands an increasing vigilance on the part of the Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women. The past year had happily been free of disturbing incidents in Leeds, said Mr. Klugerman, but the threat of possible unemployment had to be watched.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

German-born Chief Rabbi

The new Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth, Rabbi Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, was born in Koenigsberg 45 years ago. He came to this country from Berlin in 1936 together with his family—his father was a Dayan first in Berlin and later in London. An alumnus of Jews' College and the London Etz Chaim Yeshiva, Dr. Jakobovits was appointed minister of Brondesbury Synagogue in 1941, at the age of 21. Six years later, he became Chief Rabbi of Ireland, and since 1958 he has been minister of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York. Dr. Jakobovits will take up his duties as Chief Rabbi next spring.

Chief Rabbinate Centre

Sir Isaac Wolfson and his brother Charles are to establish a "Chief Rabbinate Centre" in London, consisting of offices, library and meeting rooms. Rabbi Jakobovits has stated that this was one of the "supplementary terms" of his agreement to accept the post, although the Centre would be a gift to the Chief Rabbinate Council and not to him.

International B'nai B'rith Conference

For the first time the international council of B'nai B'rith will hold its annual meeting in London. The venue was chosen to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the British District Grand Lodge. The meeting, to be held at the Washington Hotel between October 12 and 14, will be attended by more than 30 delegates of district grand lodges from various parts of the world and B'nai B'rith leaders. The opening session, when reports from various countries will be presented, will be open to the public.

The situation of Jewry in Latin America and in the Argentine in particular, and the problem of Soviet Jewry, are expected to be the main topics on the agenda.

Feeding the Needy

The Jewish Bread, Meat and Coal Society during the past year gave grants to 100 needy people living in their own homes. Standard individual grants have been increased from £10 to £15. Grants amounting to nearly £2,900 were made in the past year, including a grant of £600 to the Jewish Welfare Board.

Brondesbury Synagogue Rebuilt

Services have restarted at the Brondesbury Synagogue, the interior of which was almost entirely destroyed by Nazi arsonists last year. The synagogue has a number of new features, some of which have been made possible by large contributions from members.

Czech Scroll

The Leicester Liberal Group has acquired a Czech Torah Scroll. The Sefer Torah dates from 1850 and belonged to the synagogue in Maehrisch-Ostrau from where it was removed by the Nazis. It is one of the collection of the Czech memorial scrolls brought to London two years ago.

Ilford Yeshiva

A new yeshiva under Rabbi David Smith is to open in the Clayhall district of Ilford. Ten boys from America and ten from this country will form the nucleus of the college. It is hoped to have a bigger yeshiva eventually, with about a hundred pupils.

Manchester Migration

The Rev. Dr. I. W. Slotki forecasts that the present hub of the Manchester Jewish community around Half-Way House will soon be denuded of Jewish people. In a survey on Jewish migration in the Manchester region, Dr. Slotki reveals that the new generation, which has no language problems and whose attachment to religion is not so ardent, is moving to both the north and south of Manchester and away from the traditional centres of Cheetham, Hightown and Strangeways.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Arab Boycott

The Ford Motor Company and the Coca-Cola Company, who have multi-million dollar interests in the Middle East, have received notice of an Arab boycott. Ford announced plans to license its Israeli agent to set up an assembly plant; Coca-Cola granted a franchise to a New York banker for an Israeli bottling plant. Both companies have done business in Israel for many years, but the Boycott Office held that the new arrangements infringed permissible activities.

Banks' Antisemitism

An American Jewish Committee study of the staff engagement practices of the top 50 American banks has been published. Various regional studies in the past have shown that Jews are largely excluded from senior positions in American banking and in insurance too.

The most recent figures show that of the 50 banks 45 have no Jews at all in senior positions, four have one Jewish executive each, and one has four Jewish senior officials. In New York, the 173 senior officials of the nine largest New York banks include only one Jew.

Nazis in Chicago Riots

Nazi supporters have been blamed for the violence in Chicago in which 16 people lost their lives. Clashes between police and roving gangs of Whites hunting civil rights marchers followed a rally staged by George Lincoln Rockwell's American Nazi Party.

Mr. John Patler, a Nazi "captain" and editor of the magazine "Storm Trooper", urged a crowd of about 2,000 to stage a "White revolution". As the rally ended gangs of white youths carrying swastika placards roamed the streets chanting "White power" and "Kill the Niggers", and hurling missiles at civil rights workers.

There were some manifestations of anti-semitism among the street crowds who came out against the Chicago Freedom Movement marchers demonstrating against segregated housing.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has reappraised its past defence of Rockwell's right to free speech and is considering a request for his suppression as "a clear and present danger".

John Birch Society

Professor Revilo P. Oliver, of Illinois University, a founder of the John Birch Society, has resigned over a dispute with Mr. Robert Welsh, its leader. The antisemitic views of Professor Oliver are believed to be the cause. He is reported to have said that a Jewish conspiracy was responsible for the moral decay of Western mankind. He is also quoted as declaring: "If only by some miracle all Bolsheviks or all Jews were vaporised at dawn tomorrow, we should have nothing to worry about".

Communists Praise Israel

The Jewish section of the American Communist Party, in a draft resolution for a national conference on antisemitism on November 12-13, "unequivocally defends as unchallengeable the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign State, and condemns all declarations from whatever source, which falsely label Israel as an artificial creation of imperialism and call for its destruction."

While denying Soviet antisemitism, the resolution notes the "shortcomings" of Russia in the matter of her Jewish minority, and the "continued limitations, such as the lack of prayer books . . . the absence of a campaign against persistent expressions of remnants of antisemitism, and the slowness of restoration of Jewish culture".

EASTERN JEWRY

American Rabbis' Report

Rabbi George B. Lieberman, the leader of a group of Liberal rabbis who recently toured the Soviet Union and other East European countries, reported on his visit at a New York press conference.

He said there had been a definite decline in Judaism since his last visit ten years ago. Where once, in the Russia of old, "Jews were destroyed, but Judaism remained, today Jews remain but Judaism is being destroyed". He had come to the conclusion that the Soviet Government, which represented the world's best efforts to eradicate religion, had almost triumphed in that effort.

Rabbi Ely E. Pilchik, another member of the group, said there were three categories of Jews in the Soviet Union: a tiny remnant of synagogue Jewry; the active Yiddish culture element, also a tiny fragment; and the great mass of two-and-a-half million people—the invisible Jews who had no identity among themselves and to the outside world.

The group gained "the strong impression that antisemitism in the U.S.S.R. had not been uprooted" and that, on the contrary, "it is now on the increase."

Death Sentence

A Moscow court sentenced a 43-year-old Russian Jew, M. Rabinovich, to death for embezzling State property.

This is the first known death sentence in two years for an economic offence. Another associate, Dukarsky, a Russian, received a twelve-year sentence and L. Bramaister, a Jew, eight years.

The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry in a letter requested the International Commission of Jurists to determine whether the death sentence passed means that Russia has embarked on a new series of trials for economic offences. The letter recalled the Commission's three-year study of economic crimes and trials in the Soviet Union. The study found that Jews had been made the scapegoats "for the transgressions of those whose guilt it would be dangerous to make public."

Supreme Soviet Elections

The reappointment of Mr. Alexei Kosygin for a further four-year term as Soviet Prime Minister by the Supreme Soviet means a setback for the Soviet Communist Party's anti-semites and advocates of a hard line.

The continuation in office of the Kosygin-Brezhnev-Podgorny "troika" ensures the policy of toning down the cruder manifestations of official Soviet antisemitism. Mr. Kosygin is the first Soviet Prime Minister since the 1930s to condemn antisemitism publicly. His view is that the desired assimilation of Russia's Jews cannot be brought about in an atmosphere of virulent antisemitism and discrimination against some categories of Jews.

The only Jewish member of the Soviet Government, Mr. Binyamin Dymshits, was reappointed Deputy Prime Minister. Two Jews were elected to the Commission of Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Nationalities of the Soviet Union—the writers Ilya Ehrenburg and Alexander Chakovsky. They are also among the five Jews elected to the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet.—(J.C.)

New Year Messages

Rabbi Y. L. Levin, the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, exchanged New Year messages with Rabbi Itzhak Nissim, the Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel. The hope that the New Year might bring the rule of peace and justice between all peoples throughout the world was expressed by Rabbi Levin. Rabbi Nissim expressed the wish that Rabbi Levin "and our brothers in the Soviet Union" might see the fulfilment of the Prophets of Israel of the ingathering of the dispersed ones and the building of Jerusalem.

BABI YAR REPORT

A detailed report about Babi Yar, contained in a novel by Anatoly Kuznetsov, is being serialised in the Moscow youth publication, "Yunost". For the first time Russians are being told that the overwhelming mass of the victims shot by the Nazis at the ravine near Kiev during the war were Jews, and that Russians and Ukrainians were shot as well only because the Germans feared they had seen too much to be released.

"Nowje Knigi", a Soviet magazine, announced last year that a book of poems in Yiddish by Yaacov Shternberg would soon be published in an edition of 3,000 copies. The magazine has now announced, without any explanation, that the book has been cancelled.

ARGENTINA

Speaking at his first press conference, General Juan Carlos Onganía, President of the new Argentinian Government, stated that his Government would not tolerate any racist inclinations and that religious freedom would be guaranteed. Undertakings that the Government would not tolerate antisemitic manifestations have been given to Daia, the Jewish representative organisation.

There is obvious Government concern about foreign press suggestions that the Government has antisemitic tendencies, and also that some strongly Rightist elements, with a known antisemitic background, have infiltrated its ranks.

CHILEAN NEO-FASCISTS

The Movimiento Revolucionario Nacional Sindicalista, a neo-fascist party, held a banquet in Santiago to celebrate the sixteenth anniversary of its founding. The Nazi salute was freely used at the banquet. Señor Ramon Callis, leader of the party, claims he is not antisemitic.

WHITE JEWS IN COCHIN

The Indian congregation of the Cochin Synagogue of White Jews has formed a committee to plan next year's celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the synagogue's foundation.

Next year the foundation more than 1,900 years ago of the Jewish community and synagogue in Kerala State and the peaceful coexistence with its people will also be celebrated. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, has promised Government support for the celebrations.

The committee in charge is inviting a member of the Anglo-Jewish community to preside at the celebrations, because the Kerala synagogue is one of the oldest in the British Commonwealth as well as in the world.

FRENCH RIGHT IN ELECTIONS

According to M. Dominique Venner, one of the leaders of the new antisemitic "Nationalist Movement for Progress", several scores of its candidates will contest the French parliamentary elections next spring. Extreme Right-wing groups are organising a school for political and intellectual training, to be attended by about 200 nationalist students.

SPAIN PERMITS WORSHIP

The first public act of Jewish worship with the approval of a Spanish Government since the Inquisition has been held in Palma, Majorca. Foreign Jewish residents invited Dr. Leon Fram, of Michigan, to stop in Majorca to officiate on his way to Brussels to attend the World Jewish Congress assembly.

In former years Jews in Majorca have held services in private houses or in hotel rooms. This was the first time that the Spanish authorities had been asked to sanction a public service of Jewish worship and the request was granted.

Fritz Friedlaender (Melbourne)

H. G. WELLS—BIRTH CENTENARY

How he Viewed the Jews

When Frederick Warburg, head of the publishing firm Secker & Warburg, faced a crisis because his firm, despite their many good publications, had no best seller, he hit upon the idea of securing Herbert George Wells as one of his authors. Due to his charm and skill as a negotiator Warburg won over the famous and pretentious writer and, from 1939 onwards, Wells's works were published by Secker & Warburg.

Born on September 21, 1866, in Bromley, Kent, H. G. Wells was one of the most intriguing and fascinating men of letters of modern times. Alongside Jules Verne he was the literary visionary of a future technological age. For example, the theme of his novel "The Time Machine" bore some relationship to Einstein's theories, while his utopian novel "The First Men on the Moon" anticipated the astronautic aspirations of our day.

The boom in science fiction with its Jules Verne renaissance was certainly conducive to Wells's success. But Wells was not content to be just a writer of excessively fantastic tales. It was the impact of a radiant and colourful moralist and an advocate of social reform that aimed at a New World Order which gave his novels both background and weight.

In a time of renewed antisemitism it is indeed gratifying to remember that this truly great man believed that Jewish people, due to their mental heritage, were well fitted to contribute to the establishment of his planned New World Order which he drafted in a challenging book (1940). It was, however, twenty years earlier, in his most popular book, "The Outline of History", that he presented his view of the Jews. Of course, this "plain history of life and mankind", as its author called it, was not based on original research, as Wells was not a trained historian.

Defying the gospel of the "Aryan" master-race, Wells appreciated the Old Testament as "the most remarkable collection of ancient documents in the world" in which "we find the most interesting and valuable lights upon the development of civilisation".

On the other hand, his interpretation of the salutary influence of the Babylonian Captivity on the expelled Jews is open to question. According to his analysis of the Biblical narrative, "the Jews went to Babylon as barbarians and returned civilised. They went a confused and divided multitude, with no national self-consciousness; they returned with an intense and exclusive national spirit". "It is", he continues, "manifest that, relieved of their bickering and murderous kings, restrained from politics and in the intellectually stimulating atmosphere of that Babylonian world, the Jewish mind took a great step forward during captivity".

This is, no doubt, a gross over-simplification. Certainly the Jews benefited culturally from their enforced stay in Babylon, but the refinement of their minds during that period would not have been possible had not the so-called "barbarians" preserved the ethical basis of Judaism: the Hebrew monotheism and the Mosaic Law.

However, Wells's interpretation of the Hebrew Prophets is most appreciative and fruitful. He presents them as outstanding men who achieved the "overflow of moral ideas into the general community, and the development of the free conscience of mankind". When he also describes them as advocates of "the ideas of the moral unity of mankind and of a world peace", then we may

assume that he considered them as harbingers of his scheme of a New World Order.

When, during the last war, the fate of the free world was at stake, Wells renewed the message of the Hebrew Prophets with his demand that full equality of rights be granted to "every man without distinction of race, colour, professed belief or opinions".

Probably Wells expected that among those who would work in this direction and for that end would be the Jews of his time, and he therefore greatly admired two Jewish men of genius who shared his pacifist and cosmopolitan convictions, Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud. All his life Wells was under the spell of Einstein's work and personality and, likewise, he was so impressed by Freud, whom he visited in Vienna, that he placed him beside Leonardo, Galileo, Darwin and Lord Rutherford ("The New World Order", p. 187).

However, Wells, who in his fine novel "Anne Veronica" exposed the drawbacks of women's lack of independence in modern society, failed to recognise that the average Jews in the diaspora had, as a rule, to struggle for existence against unfavourable odds. When, in 1893/94, his close friend, the journalist Walter Low, a Jew, tried to acquaint him with the plight of his fellow Jews, the young Wells, who already held definite views, "refused to be enlightened and sympathetic about the Jewish question". "For", he argued, "from my cosmopolitan standpoint it is a question that ought not to exist" ("Experiment in Autobiography", p. 353).

While he criticised Karl Marx for doctrinairism, he himself succumbed to this by denying that in the harsh world of facts there exists a Jewish question which might always exist as long as the dream of a moral unity of mankind is not fulfilled.

Wells died on August 13, 1946, and did not see the rebirth of Israel. As an opponent of nationalism and taking into account his illusionistic approach to the Jewish problem, we can assume that he may have viewed the new Jewish State with some reservation. On the other hand, as he was a fierce adversary of Nazi imperialism and Nazi ideology, he may have welcomed a Jewish State destined to become a haven for the survivors of the Nazi Holocaust as well as for all Jews in distress.

MEMO

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Old Acquaintances

Home News: Gabriele Tergit, back from New York after the P.E.N. Congress, gave a lecture on Richard Friedenthal's "Goethe" at Club 1943.—Under the direction of Milo Sperber, "The Square," by M. Duras, was presented at the Jeannetta Cochrane Theatre.—Herbert Lom visited the Continent to take the part of Etzel in Artur Brauner's remake of "Nibelungen".—Dr. J. Suschitzky celebrated the 21st anniversary of "Libris" with the circularisation of the story of his bookshop.—Egon Jameson's 50th anniversary as a journalist was celebrated by a one-man show on German TV.—The late Peter Guttman's publishing firm, Hammond, Hammond & Co., has been taken over by Barrie and Rockliff, the owners of which are Leopold Ullstein and Anthony Samuel.—Peter Ury made a 30-minute recording of English ballads and folksongs for Stuttgart broadcasting.

Milestones: Willi Frischauer, the *Evening Standard's* Austrian-born German affairs expert, is 60 years of age. He is the only refugee of his generation whom Fleet Street has accepted. Author of several biographies and his own autobiography, Frischauer's guide to the best hotels in Europe and the best restaurants in London has just been published.—Heinrich Fischer has celebrated his 70th birthday. During the war years he worked for the BBC German section, returning to Munich some years ago to become a TV personality. He is Karl Kraus's literary executor and has just edited the last volume of the writer's works.—Oscar Sabo, the Viennese-born comedian, once famous in Berlin, is 85 years old.—The dramatic critic Dr. Rudolf Frank, now living in Basle, has turned 80.

U.S.A.: Lotte Lenya is to appear on Broadway in "Camera", a new musical based on Isherwood's "I am a Camera".—Michael Korda, son of Vincent Korda, was appointed Managing Editor of Simon & Schuster in New York.—John (Hans) Brahm directed a TV sequence of "The Girl from U.N.C.L.E.".—Franz Waxman was responsible for the score of the TV production, "The Longest Hundred Miles".—Gerd Oswald directed "The Enchanted Gun" for the Daniel Boone series.—Werner Klemperer will produce "The Meter Man", based on the play by C. Scott Forbes.

Obituary: Jan Kiepura, the Polish-born opera singer and film star and husband of Martha Egger, died in New York at the age of 66.—Hans Zehrer, 67-year-old editor of *Die Welt* and, before 1933, of the Right-wing monthly *Die Tat*, died in Berlin.—Josef von Baky, the 64-year-old film director, died in Berlin. He produced "Muenchhausen", starring Hans Albers and scripted by Erich Kaestner.—Gerhart Pohl, author and friend of Gerhart Hauptmann, died in Berlin at the age of 64.—Wolfgang Langhoff died in East Berlin. He was the first, in his book "Die Moorsoldaten", to write about the Nazi concentration camps. The war years were spent by him in Zürich and, until 1962, he was director of the Deutsches Theater.—Guenther Birkenfeld, writer and translator, died in Berlin at the age of 65. He was at one time organiser of the "Congress for Cultural Freedom".

Austria: Vienna's B'nai B'rith Lodge is preparing an exhibition of Jewish books at Kuenstlerhaus to be held from March 5 to 15, 1967. Desider Stern (Naglergasse 4, Vienna 1) is collecting material for the exhibition and should be contacted by any interested readers.—Heinrich Schnitzler produced Peter Ustinov's "Leben in meiner Hand" at the Josefstadt. Maximilian Schnell will appear there in Goldoni's "Venezianische Zwillinge".

PEM

UNITED NATIONS WEEK, OCTOBER 24-31

THE ENDLESS PROBLEM OF REFUGEES

It was a wishful thought that the striking achievement of World Refugee Year, 1959, would usher in the end of the problem of refugees as an international concern. In Great Britain particularly there was a remarkable response to the call for a national effort to enable the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to liquidate the camps remaining in Europe since the Second World War. The sum contributed was more than three times the target which had been set. The hard core of the displaced persons who lingered in those camps have, in fact, been settled by the High Commissioner's office during the past seven years. The refugees in Europe who need help are numbered today in a few thousands instead of the tens of thousands. One fresh European problem, indeed, has been created during these years. It is the coming to Spain of 12,000 Cubans, who have found refuge and are unwilling to go back to their original home, and need the help of the High Commissioner.

The major activity, however, of the United Nations office has been shifted to Africa and Asia. During the last decade, as one colony of mandated territory after another became independent, masses of victims of tribal feuds, or fugitives from political persecution, had to flee from their homes to a neighbouring sovereign territory which was unable to grant them asylum except with the help of the world organ of the United Nations. Last year it was estimated that 400,000 required, and received, the help of the High Commissioner. Some of them needed only legal help, to give them a status in accordance with the international conventions, which have been adopted for the benefit of those who are in law or in fact Stateless. Others have needed the essential material help, food and shelter, and tools; and with a limited budget of between three and four million dollars a year the High Commissioner has contrived to keep them alive and to repatriate, or resettle in the country of refuge, a large section. The ever-ready philanthropic organisations, the Red Cross, Save-the-Children Fund, the Y.M.C.A., and the World Lutheran Federation, the American Peace Army and the British Voluntary Service Overseas, have co-operated fully with the High Commissioner. His part has been largely to co-ordinate their activities and to use his good offices with the governments of the countries of refuge.

A wise and imaginative action of the United Nations Assembly last December was to appoint as High Commissioner for Refugees for two years Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. He is a Moslem and son of a famous international figure, and he had served his apprenticeship as Deputy High Commissioner to two Swiss diplomats. He brings to his office the largest possible contacts as well as high personal qualities. So he can deal with equal skill and persuasiveness with Tibetans seeking asylum in Nepal and India, with Ruandans from the former Belgian mandated territory in Central Africa, with Congolese from that vast and unhappy country also in Central Africa, and with refugees from the Portuguese territories in Africa who have taken refuge in Congo.

Perhaps the most baffling masses of refugees are not those which need the direct protection of the High Commissioner but victims of civil war and revolutions in the East who are looked after by special Agencies. They include the Chinese millions in British Hong-Kong and Portuguese Macao, the Northern Koreans, who have crossed the ideological border into Southern Korea, and, more recently, the North

Vietnam fugitives who have crossed similarly into the southern area; and finally, the Arabs from Western Palestine, who 18 years ago fled to the neighbouring Arab States, and for the most part have not been absorbed or integrated, but are still dependent and unemployed refugees. The United Nations created in 1949 a special agency for relief and employment of these refugees. That Arab problem is the most intractable of all, because the masses have been thoroughly indoctrinated with the dogma that they must demand repatriation to the country which is now Israel, and must refuse to accept work or resettlement which might indicate that they will be absorbed in the countries inhabited by their kith and kin. A tragic feature of the deliberate policy of stagnation is that more than half of the 1½ million men, women and children registered for help from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency have been born in the encampments or refugee villages, and have never seen the country which they claim to be their *Patria*, except, it may be, by looking across the barbed-wire borderline. The one amelioration of their desperate condition which the High Commissioner has been able to provide is the establishment of a few vocational schools for some thousands of young men and women in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the "Gaza Salient" by the Egyptian border. The funds were provided from the international contributions of World Refugee Year. The special agency of the United Nations significantly no longer includes in its objects to settle the refugees in work; and the annual resolution of the General Assembly calling on the Conciliation Commission for Palestine to continue their efforts for repatriation, or the payment of compensation to the refugees with a view to their resettlement, is almost a dead letter. The position with the two other mass residues of the revolutionary struggles in China and Korea is much more hopeful. The guest countries, with the moral, and some small material, help of the High Commissioner, have devised constructive plans of absorption, with the result that the problem is manageable. The citizens of the territories of refuge co-operate with the Governments and the United Nations agency.

NORMAN BENTWICH

CAMPAIGN IN BRITAIN

Sixteen countries of Europe—Britain among them—will mount intensive, nation-wide campaigns for refugees from October 24 to 31, under a common title and symbol: Refugees '66. A Committee under the Chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands is co-ordinating the campaign, which is an imaginative attempt to unite the developed countries of Europe in bringing relief to needy refugees wherever they may be—the "haves" for the "have-nots".

Her Majesty the Queen has graciously consented to be Patron of the U.K. Committee, which consists of the 21 British voluntary organisations directly concerned with refugees. The Vice-Patrons are the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath and Mr. Joseph Grimond. The Marquess of Lothian is Chairman.

On Sunday, October 23, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands will make appeals on B.B.C. radio and television. The following day Prince Bernhard and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, will be present at a ceremony in Church House, Westminster, to launch the U.K. campaign, followed by a service in Westminster Abbey, both of which will be

attended by religious leaders of all denominations, including a representative of the Chief Rabbinate-in-Commission. Saturday, October 29, will be observed as Refugee Sabbath.

There will also be a special meeting for schoolchildren at the Royal Festival Hall on October 7, at 2.30 p.m., at which the speakers include Dr. Horace King, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Mr. Harry Randall, M.P. Throughout the week public attention will be focused upon the current problem of refugees by an intensive publicity campaign consisting of programmes on radio and TV, features in the press, and events organised by the various participating organisations.

Economic conditions, political upheavals and religious fanaticism have sorely affected many countries and, as is so often the case, the Jews of those countries have been amongst the first and most pitiful victims. Today, 20 years after the end of World War II, Jews are still in flight. The movement goes on from countries where Jews are not welcome, from countries where Jews cannot make a living, to countries where they can find peace and security. Though the numbers involved no longer run into millions, these people are, above all others, our concern as Jews and it is our obligation to serve the needy among them, wherever they may be.

One Tunisian couple arrived in France with their five children ranging in age from four to seventeen. The only place they could find to live was one small, unhygienic room occupied by a married son and his wife. By the time they were rehoused in better conditions, the damage had been done—Suzanne, the teenager, had developed T.B. and the mother was suffering from acute depression. Now, after a spell in a sanatorium, Suzanne is back home but still under medical care and needing special attention and expensive extra food. The father earns only a small income as a clerk and, even with family allowances, they have the greatest difficulty in providing the necessary care and special food. Because of the constant worry the mother still has relapses.

An aged couple of Moroccan nationality are living in a village outside Lyons with their daughter and son-in-law, a low-salaried State employee. The old woman is practically paralysed. Because there is no Jewish community close at hand, the daughter has to travel 30 miles twice a week to buy meat and other kosher food—and her meagre housekeeping money simply will not run to paying the fares and for the more expensive food.

Just two examples of a common need. The primary requirements of refugees are nearly always food, clothing, shelter and medical care. The 21 British organisations who make up the U.K. committee sponsoring Refugees '66 Week in Britain are already committed to essential schemes costing more than £1 million for the current year. They ask with a united voice for the utmost help from all who know the blessing of a homeland they can call their own.

Readers of this journal are particularly asked to support the two Jewish member organisations—the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation and British Ose—and to help bring the aims of the campaign as a whole to the widest possible public by assisting in publicity. Small posters, car stickers (conveniently gummed on the face), leaflets and letter stamps (suitable for sticking on letters or envelopes), all bearing the symbol, "Refugees '66", are available to anyone willing and able to use them. Applications, stating quantity required, should be made promptly to Mrs. Alison Barnes, Publicity Officer, C.B.F. and OSE, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London W.C.1.

ALISON BARNES

Erich Gottgetreu

WIEDERSEHEN MIT BERLIN

Fuer Touristen, die zum ersten Mal in ihrem Leben nach Berlin kommen, ist die Reise aus dem metropolitan ausgeputzten, hier und da amerikanisch stilisierten Westen der Stadt in den DDR-gefaerbten, preussisch-strammen, ersten Osten sicher "interessant", aber dem, der Berlin vor den Tausend Jahren kannte und sich dort zuhause fuehlte, wird der Blick aus dem Busfenster in die fast verkehrstoten Strassen suedlich vom Tiergarten, zwischen der fahlgelben Gespensterkulisse eines Ruinenrests vom Anhalter Bahnhof und der Goya-Vision einer Gegend, die einmal vom Potsdamer Platz belebt und beseelt war, ein gespenstisches Grauen und ein Angsttraum. Die Hand des Fuehrers—jetzt meine ich nur den Touristenfuehrer im Autobus—wies von Zeit zu Zeit zur Mauer hinuiber und zur "Todeszone". Spaeter sollten wir beides sehen. Die Mauer—das waren teils Betonwaende, teils zur Haelfte abrasierte und mit Schutt ausgefuellte fruhere Wohnhaeuser, und die Todeszone.

Als wir "Checkpoint Charlie" erreicht hatten, hiess man alle Passagiere den Bus verlassen, man musste dabei auf eine Matte treten, aber eine Erklaerung, was es fuer eine Bewandnis damit habe, wurde nicht gegeben. Den harmlosen Ostlandreisenden trieb es einen James Bond-Kitzel ueber den Ruecken, und des Geruecht, dass eine Art Minensucher unter der Matte versteckt sein muesse, erhielt neue Nahrung als bei der Rueckfahrt, nach drei Stunden, die Unterseite des Autobusses mit Spiegeln abgeleuchtet wurde, anscheinend nach Fluchtaspiranten aus dem Osten. Die Matte, erfuehren wir viel spaeter, war mit einer Loesung getraenkt, um gegen moegliche Maul- und Klauenseuche-Uebertrager Schutz zu gewaehren. . . .

Der erste Haltepunkt fuer die Teilnehmer an der gleichsam offiziellen Besichtigungsfahrt nach Ost-Berlin war dicht bei jener Stelle in der ehemaligen oberen Wilhelm-

strasse—jetzt Otte Grotewohl-Strasse—an der ich Hitler zum letzten mal beobachten konnte. Das war am 30. Januar 1933, als ich als Redakteur am "Sozialdemokratischen Presseedienst" den Auftrag hatte, journalistisches Zeugnis davon abzulegen, dass es nicht "ganz Berlin" war, das dem neuen Reichskanzler jubelte. Berichten musste ich freilich: es waren doch viele Zehntausende in der naechstlichen Parade.

Dreiunddreissig Jahre spaeter—und der Platz der Reichskanzlei ist nichts als ein leicht gewellter, sommergruener Rasen. Man kann ihn nicht betreten, denn er gehoert zur Todeszone, durch die in zeitlich unregelmessigen Abstaenden ostzonale Volkspolizisten patrouillieren. Der Begleiter des Touristenbusses versichert uns aber, dass das Gelaende eines Tages in einen Volkspark umgewandelt werden wuerde. Dann wird man vielleicht auch in das Bunkerloch Hitlers hinabsteigen, von dem heute nur, unnahbar unseren Schritten, von fern die Eingangshoehle gezeigt wird.

*

Der Sozialdemokratische Presseedienst hatte bis 1933 seinen Sitz am Belle-Alliance-Platz, der, im jetzigen Westsektor gelegen, gleichfalls einen recht laendlichen Eindruck macht. Die hohe zentrale Denkmalssauele steht noch, und noch immer balanciert auf ihr dieselbe goldbemale, befluegelte Siegesgoettin, die uns taeglich freundlich auf die Manuskripte blinzelte—sie hatte sich laengst damit abgefunden, dass unsere Artikel nicht immer den Beifall des alten Bluecher gefunden haetten. Zu Fuessen der goldenen Goettin liegt jetzt ein Bauplatz. Die Strassenbahnschienen, die zu "meiner" Zeit ums Rondell fuehrten, sind verrostet, und keine Elektrische klingelt sich mehr ihren Weg zum Halleschen Tor hin. Es wuerde auch kaum jemand hier einsteigen. Der Krieg hat die Haeuser vom Belle-Alliance-Platz, auch viele der unteren Friedrichstadt fortgefegt; das Rund um die Miniaturausgabe der Siegesauele heisst jetzt Franz Mehring-Platz.

Waehrend meiner Pressedienst-Jahre 1930 bis 33 hatte ich im Dachgeschoss des Hauses Kurfuerstendamm 76, am Lehniner Platz, gewohnt. Der jugendstilige Stuckpalast steht nicht mehr. Er ist einem linienklaren Neubau gewichen—mit lauter neuen Namen auf der Haustafel, und Herrn Braesicke, den dicken, brummigen Portier, der den meist spaeten Heimkehrer misstrauisch heaugte, gibt's auch nicht mehr. Ebenso ist die SA-Kneipe in der Roscherstrasse nicht mehr da und der ganze Strassenzug, den sie mit Bier und brauner Stimmung versorgte, ist durch eine Reihe neuer mittelstaendischer Haeuser ersetzt. Neu ist auch an der Lehniner Platz-Ecke eine Buchhandlung der Aufschrift "Religion und Geisteswissenschaft" — 1933, als Goerings SA-Stuerme ueber Deutschland stapften, hat's das hier nicht gegeben, die Religion nicht und die Geisteswissenschaft nicht.

Ich fragte die Besitzerin der Buchhandlung nach den Traegern einiger Namen, die mir in jener Gegend vertraut waren, vor drei Jahrzehnten allerdings—sie kannte keinen

von ihnen. Eine alte weisshaarige Dame, die gleichfalls hinterm Ladentisch sass, verbarg ihr sorgenzerfurchtes Gesicht in magern Haenden.

Die Spannung zu loesen, griff ich nach dem ersten besten Buch, um es zu erstehen, es war 1883 in Berlin erschienen, hatte einen Dr. Georg von Gizycki zum Autor und hiess "Grundzuege der Moral".

Es lag in der Kiste "Zu herabgesetzten Preisen".

*


Wie durch ein Wunder—und als Resultat einer Verkettung merkwuerdiger Zufaele—war ich im Maerz 1933 nach zwei Tagen aus der Haft wieder entlassen worden.

Ich erinnere mich an das laengliche Kellergewoelbe, das durch ein paar schirmlose elektrische Birnen nur spaerlich erleuchtet war, an die schmutzigen Strohmatten, an unsere verblendet-optimistischen Diskussionen, denn es is war ja noch vor der Oranienburger und Dachauer Wirklichkeit, wer konnte sie ahnen.

Es ist mir jetzt, 1966, nicht gelungen, in das Polizeipraesidium zurueckzukommen: dieser ganze Bau, Mischung von Drohung und Ordnung, Symbol der Berliner Geschichte von Jagow bis Zoergiebel, Weiss und Graf Helldorf, steht ueberhaupt nicht mehr da, so wie es auch die ganze Alexanderplatzwelt des Franz Bieberkopf nicht mehr gibt. Nichts ist wieder aufgebaut, alles gaenzlich umgeplant, und an einer Stelle des Komplexes, der auch unter dem DDR-Regime seinen zaristischen Namen behalten durfte, erhebt sich stolz das "Haus des Lehrers und des Wissenschaftlers", so wie auch die Warenhaeuser Tietz und Wertheim, um den Ausdruck des westberlinischen Reisefuehrers zu gebrauchen, "der Spitzhacke zum Opfer gefallen" sind.

Am letzten Tage meines Berlin-Wiedersehens fuhr ich nach Ploetzensee zu dem historischen Gefaengnis, an dessen Eingang an einem kuehlen Maitag des Jahres 1932 eine Gruppe linksgerichteter Intellektueller, alarmiert durch den Sekretaer der Liga fuer Menschenrechte, von Carl von Ossietzky Abschied genommen hatte nach einem typischen Prae-Naziprozess, der, wie ein Vorspiel in der Hoelle, bereits die

Continued on page 8, column 1



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WIEDERSEHEN MIT BERLIN

Continued from page 7

Tausende der Unrechtsverfahren des heraufkommenden Zeitalters haette ahnen lassen koennen.

Viele dieser Verfahren endeten hier in Ploetzensee. Es war hier, wo im Lauf der letzten Diktaturjahre etwa neunzehnhundert antifaschistische Widerstandskampfer hingerichtet wurden—in einer zweiraumigen, rotziegeligen Steinbaracke—anaenglich mit einer Guillotine, spaeter durch Aufhaengen, was den "Volksrichtern" einfacher und wohl auch passender erschien.

An dem Tag, an dem ich die Gedenkstaette besuchte, wurde einer Gruppe von vierzig westdeutschen Jugendlichen der Platz der Erinnerung gezeigt: die Ehrenmauer am Eingang mit der Inschrift "Den Opfern der Hitlerdiktatur", die Urne mit Erde aus allen deutschen Konzentrationslagern, und eben jener Ziegelschuppen der serienweisen Menschenausloeschung. Die Schuelergruppe stammte aus dem Sauerland und war eine von hunderten, wie sie in diesem Sommer aus allen Teilen der Bundesrepublik nach Berlin gefuehrt wurden, vor allem auch, um sie mit den ernstesten politischen Problemen der Inselstadt an der Mauer vertraut zu machen.

Ein Beamter der "Landeszentrale fuer Politische Bildungsarbeit" erklarte den Jugendlichen die Bedeutung der Gedenkstaette. Einige in der sauerlaendischen Gruppe reagierten mehr oder weniger gleichgueltig—das waren wohl die des Typs, der sich von jedem Ausseneindruck wie von Schnee oder Regen berieseln laesst, innerlich aber durch nichts beruehrt wird, was ihn nicht persoendlich betrifft. Eine zweite Gruppe unter den vierzig war hingegen sichtlich angesprochen, wenn auch ueberrascht von diesem Abschnitt deutscher Vergangenheit, von der Furie des Naziterrors und von der Verzweigkeit und Hartnaeckigkeit des Widerstands. Und eine dritte Gruppe schliesslich—das zeigten ihre Kommentare—bemuehte sich kuehl und "sachlich" zu bleiben—wahrscheinlich waren es die, die ihrer Erzieher Mahnung eingedenk waren von jeder Sache auch die andere Seite zu sehen, denn schliesslich haette ja auch Hitler "sein Gutes" gehabt. Als der Funktionaer der Landeszentrale in seinem erklarenden Vortrag darauf kam, dass unter den Ploetzensee-Opfern hundertzundachtzig bis zweihundert waren, die im Zusammenhang mit der Verschwuerung vom 20. Juli hingerichtet wurden und dass das Urteil gegen sie "auf ausdruuecklichen Befehl Hitlers durch Erhaengen vollstreckt wurde—in einigen Faellen sogar durch Strangulation, eine besonders qualvolle und langdauernde Hinrichtungsart"—da klang's aus dem Munde eines der sauerlaendischen Maedchen:

"Man muss objektiv sein. Diese Art der Hinrichtung ist ja nun wirklich nicht zu rechtfertigen."

JULIUS BRODNITZ

On the Centenary of his Birth

For sixteen out of its forty-five years of existence, Dr. Julius Brodnitz (Berlin) was chairman of the C.V. (Central-Verein), the most powerful political body in German Jewry. But his participation in the work of the C.V. had already started in 1901 when he became a member of the committee dealing with the protection of legal rights. This long period of honorary service ended with his death; he had not reached his 70th year when, as a result of an accident, he passed away in Berlin in June, 1936.

The recent centenary of the date of his birth in the city of Posen on August 19, 1866, reminds us of this man's way of life and times. Fundamentally he was deeply religious. His innate sense of justice, derived in part from Jewish teachings, was not merely directed at questions of high policy, but was also expressed in his understanding of the everyday problems of his co-workers. His broad humanistic approach, with an open mind for both the Jewish and German spiritual values, demonstrated wide thinking, breadth of vision and susceptibility. It also showed, especially in the great and fateful days, flexibility in recognising and assessing events and developments.

His thoughts were directed to the unity and unification of the Jewish community in Germany. His constructive and decisive actions in connection with the establishment of the Reichsvertretung der deutschen Juden are a matter of recorded history. Brodnitz also felt himself concerned with the rebuilding of Palestine, as is seen from an article that he wrote for the Keren Hayesod shortly before his death. "The experiment in Palestine", he concluded, "will not fail, because it must not fail if Judaism throughout the world is not to suffer untold harm". Even the editorial of the Zionist "Judischen Rundschau" declared after his death that not only the C.V. but "the whole of German Jewry had lost an exemplary personality as expressed in his indefatigable labours and distinguished humanity". In fact, he entirely lacked narrow-mindedness, pettiness and dogmatism. He was free-minded and discerning.

Actually it was only his Shavian white beard that gave the distinguished, impressive and buoyant figure of Julius Brodnitz the appellation of "the old gentleman", as he was sometimes called. In reality he was and continued to be a good friend rather than the stern and detached representative of an idea or cause. This modest, natural, sometimes quizzical, approach made him popular and well-beloved wherever he appeared. For a long period he was to be seen on the front benches of the assembly of the Prussian Association of Jewish Communities ("Landesverband"),

which met in the former Prussian Upper Chamber. The Hilfsverein der deutschen Juden and Ort were proud of the fact that Brodnitz was associated with them. From 1926 he was an honorary member of the Jewish Reformgemeinde in Berlin. The Juedische Kulturbund valued his knowledge and advice, as well as his constructive criticism.

Leo Baeck's funeral oration by the bier of the deceased was based on the Biblical text of the "man of faith" who is rich in blessings. He linked this not least of all with faithfulness to his community. The mortal remains of this great man of loyalty were interred in the idyllic Jewish cemetery at the Pfingstberg in Potsdam. There, at the end of 1938 after the November pogroms, his warmhearted and wise help-meet Hedwig Brodnitz (née Herzfeld), who had died on October 30 of that year while on a visit to New York, was also buried.

The three sons, Dr. Otto M. and Professor Dr. Friedrich S. Brodnitz in New York and Dipl. Ing. Heinz Brodnitz in Tel Aviv, very similar to their parents in many aspects of their characters and appearances, maintain the human approach and spiritual heritage of their father and mother—and with it a tradition.

E. G. LOWENTHAL.

GERMAN VISITORS

Under the auspices of the youth section of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, 17 youngsters from West Berlin's Evangelische Weinachtskirche are spending a fortnight in England. Accompanied by Pastor Dieter Schoeneich and his wife, they are being housed by members of the South-West Essex Reform Synagogue, Ilford.

The German youth are attending lectures and seminars and also services in various Reform and Liberal synagogues. Pastor Schoeneich and some members of the group will speak on "German Youth Looks at Post-War Jewry" at a public meeting, and the visit will conclude with a symposium on "Jews and Germans—the Future?"

Rabbi Dow Marmor, of the South-West Essex Reform Synagogue, said that although many of the congregants did not agree with the invitation, there was no violent opposition to it. Some former German Jews had even accepted some of the youngsters as home guests.

TEACHER BANNED

A grammar school teacher, Hans Joachim Klinger, was last year reprimanded by the Lower Saxony Minister of Cultural Affairs after pupils had complained that he had made pro-Nazi and anti-democratic statements. He has now been banned from teaching history but may still teach other subjects.

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IN MEMORIAM

KASIMIR EDSCHMID

Kasimir Edschmid starb sechsundsiebzig Jahre alt in Vulpera—"herrlich die Blumen-gaerten von Vulpera, die sich am Hang des Gebirges zwischen Wald und Abgrund schmal und in spielerischer Ueppigkeit entlang-winden", schrieb er 1959. Er war nicht nur ein sehr guter Schriftsteller, der Vater des deutschen Expressionismus—"Die sechs Muen-dungen", "Das rasende Leben", "Timur" wurden 1916 zum Entzuecken einer ganzen Generation bei Kurt Wolff veroeffentlicht—, er war, was unsre Leser besonders angeht, einer der ganz wenigen Deutschen, der eine klare Stellung zu den Juden hatte. Er war fern von jedem: "Sie muessen doch zugeben, dass die Juden eine zu grosse Rolle . . .", von jedem: "Sie waren doch eben ein Fremdkoerper", fern auch der neudeutschen Bewunderung von Israel aus den falschen Gruenden. Er wurde nicht muede, die Integration der deutschen Juden aufzuzeigen. Den Schmerz, mit dem er 1959 in Frankfurt auf franzoesisch vor Schriftstellern der ganzen Welt ueber die Zerstoeerung der Frankfurter Juden sprach, wird niemand vergessen.

Er war ein Darmstaedter, hessischer, deutscher Patriot und ein leidenschaftlicher Antinationalist, ein Weltmann. Noch 1951 schrieb er "Afrika—nackt und angezogen", einen "Byron" 1952, den Roman "Wenn es Rosen sind, werden sie bluehen". Alle bei Desch. Er veroeffentlichte meisterhaft "Die Briefe der Expressionisten". Seine autobio-graphischen Fragmente—Tagebuch 1958/1960 und Lebendiger Expressionismus, Desch—sind eine Fundgrube fuer unsre Zeit. Auf sein Urteil ist Verlass. Er schreibt ueber de Gaulle

und Nasser, ueber den Tier-Lorenz und Chagall, ueber Camus und die Lasker-Schueler, ueber das neue Afrika (die kleinen Neger-jungen an der Westkueste lernen noch immer —auf franzoesisch—"Unsre Ahnen, die Gal-lier"), ueber abseitige Juden.

Er war gegen den "Zirkus des Literatur-betriebs" in Deutschland, gegen "hintergruen-dige", "transzendente", "erhoehte" Dich-tung, "die wirre Dinge noch komplizierter, einfache Dinge aber trostlos verworren machen". Aber die Hauptsache war fuer ihn das Anstaendige. Er uebersah es nie. Er hob es immer hervor. Dieser Ueberbruecker von Vergangenheit und Zukunft ist fuer das geistige Leben Deutschlands unersetzlich.

GABRIELE TERGIT

DR. BRUNO KISCH

Dr. Bruno Kisch (New York), the noted cardiologist and medical historian, died in Bad Nauheim. He was 76 years old. Born in Prague as the scion of a well-known and old-established family, he was Professor of Physi-ology, Biochemistry and Experimental Medi-cine at the University of Cologne for eleven years. He left Germany in 1938 and joined the faculty of Yeshiva University, with which he was associated as the institution's medical director until he retired in 1964.

RABBI DR. B. GOTTSCHALK

Rabbi Dr. Benno Gottschalk died in Los Angeles at the age of 83. He was born in Berlin and held appointments in Berlin (Friedenstempel), Frankfurt (Westend-Syna-goge) and with the short-lived Reform Con-gregation in Cologne ("Die Gemeinschaft"). After this, he was Rabbi at the Berlin "Reformgemeinde" until he emigrated.

REV. M. KUSEVITSKY

The death occurred in New York at the age of 67 of the Rev. Moshe Kusevitsky, the world-famous chazan. In accordance with his wishes, the funeral took place in Jerusalem.

Moshe Kusevitsky was born in Smorgon, Poland. He was cantor of the Vilna Great Synagogue and, from 1928 until the Nazi occupation of Poland, chief cantor of the famous Warsaw Tlomatsky Synagogue. The war years were spent in Russia, where he and his family fled from Poland.

After the war he frequently gave recitals in Europe and Israel. His concerts at the Royal Albert Hall in London and in Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Glasgow, were acclaimed by thousands. Finally settling in the United States, he took a position at the Beth El Synagogue in New York.

MRS. MARTHA GRIN

Mrs. Martha Grin, née Winzer, died at Otto Schiff House in her 82nd year. She had lost her eyesight during the influenza epidemic after the First World War. At the funeral, Mr. Erich Cohn, a blind friend of hers, paid tribute to the heroism with which she mastered the vicissitudes she had to encounter during her long life, her widespread interests and her devotion to her fellow-men. She was always grateful for the care given to her in the Home and will be sadly missed by the residents and staff members at Otto Schiff House.

GRAVES DESECRATED

The graves of inmates of concentration camps who died after being liberated were desecrated in the Jewish cemetery in the Moisling district of Luebeck. According to an announcement by the police, 45 gravestones were overturned and nameplates removed from a further 35 gravestones.

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ROUND AND ABOUT

VERWOERD AND THE JEWS

Just before his assassination Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd, the South African Prime Minister and the principal architect of apartheid, told a visiting B'nai B'rith official that he was happy antisemitism had abated in South Africa. The Jews, said Dr. Verwoerd, had made a good contribution to the country and would continue to do so.

South African Jewish religious and lay leaders expressed the community's shock at the assassination. Progressive congregations held memorial services.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Levi Eshkol, expressed the Government's "grief and shock". The obituary notice broadcast by Kol Israel recalled Dr. Verwoerd's opposition to the entry into South Africa of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. It was on this issue, in 1936, that Dr. Verwoerd came into prominence, when he led a small group of Stellenbosch professors in a protest against such admission.

The following year, as editor-in-chief of the new Afrikaans-language daily, *Die Transvaler*, he spoke through the newspaper for the anti-war section of the Afrikaner people. Dr. Verwoerd lost a libel case against the Johannesburg Star, who asserted that his "spiritual home was nearer to Berchtesgaden than South Africa". Born in Holland and brought up in South Africa, he obtained a Master of Arts degree in psychology and philosophy at Stellenbosch University and thereafter studied at Hamburg, Leipzig and Berlin, graduating as a Doctor of Philosophy.

FAMILY EVENTS

Engagement

Wiener: Godfrey.—Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Wiener, 115 The Vale, London, N.W.11, have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their only daughter, Marion, to Antony, only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Godfrey, 259 Goldhurst Terrace, London, N.W.6.

Death

Kaiser.—Mr. Richard Rudolf Kaiser (formerly Frankfurt a.M.) passed away on August 22, aged 75. Deeply mourned by his sister, niece, nephews and many friends.

Kornfeld.—Mrs. Margarethe Kornfeld, of 48 Holmdale Road, London, N.W.6 (formerly Vienna), passed away suddenly on 13th September, aged 71. Deeply mourned by her husband and many friends.

CLASSIFIED

Situations Vacant

HOUSING SOCIETY, sponsored by the AJR, requires responsible person on a part-time salaried basis, preferably car owner, to visit estate agents in London and the suburbs to locate suitable building land. Please write to the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, marked "Housing Society".

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THE HYPHEN

18th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Saturday, 15th October

at 8 p.m. at the Clarendon Court Hotel, Maida Vale. Adm. 12/6, incl. refreshments & entertainment.

"GREAT BRITAIN AND THE REFUGEES"

A German Diploma Thesis

A student at the Dolmetscher Institut of Heidelberg University, Edith Kaiser, has submitted a Diploma thesis in English on the subject, "Great Britain and the Refugees from Germany and Austria, 1933 to 1945". In her introduction she states that she had originally intended to deal with the fate of refugee writers. She had, however, dropped this idea when she had studied some material, and more particularly when she had read "Britain's New Citizens", the Tenth Anniversary Publication of the AJR, because she then felt "that the fate of thousands of 'common' and unknown refugees was a subject equally worth to be dealt with".

The comprehensive and well-written 100-page work carries quotations from many sources. In her preface, the author pays special tribute to the AJR for the help rendered to her.

AWARD FOR DUTCH PROFESSOR

The 1966 French language prize of the French Academy will be presented to Dr. L. Kukenheim, Professor of French at Leyden University. Professor Kukenheim, who is chairman of the Leyden Jewish congregation, will receive the award in Paris on December 15.

A member of the board of the Netherlands Jewish Historical Society and of other Jewish societies, Professor Kukenheim has written a number of books, including "Contributions to the History of Greek, Latin and Hebrew Grammar at the Time of the Renaissance".

Letter to the Editor

SYNAGOGUE ORANIENBURGER STRASSE

Der in der September-Ausgabe veroeffentlichte Artikel von Rabbiner Dr. S. Neufeld ruft die Erinnerung an viele Persoenlichkeiten wach, die mit diesem Gotteshause verbunden waren.

Der bekannte Komponist und Bearbeiter liturgischer Musik, Louis Lewandowski, wirkte dort eine Zeitlang als Chordirigent.

Es war zu Anfang schwer, geeignete Rabbiner fuer diesen Riesenbau, der Sitzplaetze fuer 1.800 Maenner und 1.200 Frauen umfasste, zu finden. Einer der beruehmtesten unter ihnen war zunaechst Siegmund Maybaum, der auch als Dozent an der Lehranstalt fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums der Lehrer vieler spaeterer Rabbiner wurde. Als naechster Rabbiner wurde Samson Weisse berufen, der der Gemeinde bis in sein hohes Alter diente. Bald darauf folgte Rabbiner Malwin Warschauer, dessen Predigten stets eine besondere Anziehungskraft ausuebten. Nicht unerwaehnt soll auch Louis Blumenthal bleiben, der bis zu seiner Pensionierung im Jahre 1935 amtierte.

Viele heute im Ausland lebenden Rabbiner haben in der Synagoge Oranienburger Strasse ihre Antrittspedigten gehalten, z.B. Dr. W. van der Zyl, Dr. M. Swarensky und Dr. M. Nussbaum.

Mit Wehmut muss auch des letzten Oberkantors, Leo Gollanin, gedacht werden, der das grosse Gotteshaus mit der unvergesslichen Gewalt und Pracht seiner Stimme fuehlte. Es glueckte ihm, zusammen mit seiner Gattin die Nazizeit in Berlin zu ueberleben, und noch in sehr hohem Alter weihete er nach Kriegsende die jetzige Synagoge in der Joachimsthaler Strasse ein.

K.S.

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GOLD: "GESCHICHTE DER JUDEN IN BOEHMEN". Who would sell or lend this book? 'Phone: HILLside 6858.

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries

Hailbronner, Helka, born 3.4.1880 in Neuwedell (née Fabian). Parents: Meyer Fabian and Hermine (née Rosenberg). Son: Ernst Heinrich Hailbronner, now Ernest Humphrey Hamilton, formerly of Longeaton, Notts., born June, 1910. Daughter: L. Hailbronner, formerly of Moor Park, Middx. Sought by cousin, Henry Sergevich, of New York. Replies to: Jewish Refugees Committee, 217/9 Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1.

Gronemann. — Henriette Gronemann, daughter of Juda and Elise Gerson, born 5.9.1880 in Weener, Ostfriesland, or relatives sought by URO, Tel Aviv, Gruzenbergstrasse 18.

SELF AID OF REFUGEES

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ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

A UNIQUE COLLECTION CENTRE

Lecture on New York Leo Baeck Institute

Under the auspices of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodges, Mr. Fred Grubel (New York), Secretary of the American Section of the Leo Baeck Institute, gave a lecture on the Institute's steadily growing collection of records about the history of Jews in German-speaking countries from the emancipation onwards. The collection, *inter alia*, comprises 42,000 volumes of books, written in German by or about Jews, several hundred volumes of memoirs, genealogies and documents. It thus testifies to the creativity of German Jewry within the short span of a few generations. The speaker stressed that the collection was not the library of a "Landsmannschaft", but a research institute, where the widely dispersed material has been centralised and put at the disposal of historians and other scholars. He appealed to members of the audience for records in their possession (e.g., memoirs, letters, family trees, documents) to ultimately find their place in the New York Institute. Technical assistance may be obtained from the London office of the L.B.I. (4 Devonshire Street, W.1, LANGHAM 3493).

The lecture was enhanced by a show of lantern slides, depicting the beautiful Italian-style house of the Institute (originally owned by a member of the Guggenheim family), letters (e.g., by Rathenau), portraits and *sujets d'art*. Mr. F. E. Falk was in the Chair.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY EXHIBITION

The Anglo-Jewish historical exhibition at Westminster Abbey, part of the Abbey's 900th anniversary year exhibition, is a unique occasion not only for Anglo-Jewry but for Westminster Abbey. The 45 exhibits span 900 years of Anglo-Jewish history in paintings, photographs, colour transparencies and ritual objects. The exhibition will be open until December 28.

LEO BAECK MEMORIAL LECTURE

The lecture in memory of Leo Baeck, annually organised by the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck Lodges and the Society for Jewish Study, will be held this year on Wednesday, November 2, the tenth anniversary of his death, in the Syna-

gogue Hall, 51 Belsize Square, N.W.3, at 8 for 8.15 p.m. Dr. George J. Webber, LL.D., will speak on "Jewish Civil Law and the Law of Israel".

SELF-SUPPORTING OLD AGE HOME

Since the latest report on the scheme was published, there have been some unexpected and very promising developments. The Committee in charge of the venture has come across a property in the Swiss Cottage area which, with very minor alterations, would lend itself to use as a Home and would be ready for occupation in about six to nine months' time. The particular attraction of this offer is the locality, because many prospective participants would prefer to live in the North-Western district. Furthermore, the investment costs of the Home could be established from the outset, whereas this would not be possible to the same extent for a new building to be erected and furnished over a number of years. The Home would ultimately provide accommodation for about 50 residents and the necessary staff.

Preference for admission has to be given to those who have already notified the Committee of their interest in this scheme and lodged a deposit with the Trustees. However, other former refugees who are interested in the plan should also contact the office of the AJR so that they may be kept informed of further developments and be included in case there should still be vacancies.

REFUGEE WEEK

Festival in Camden

The Camden Committee for Community Relations (CCCR), which comprises most of the major voluntary organisations in the borough and on which the AJR is also represented, will mark Refugee Week by an International Festival. As Camden is an inter-racial international borough in which 25 per cent of the residents came as strangers—immigrants or refugees—CCCR considered it particularly appropriate to come together in order to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the U.N. and to support its work for refugees. The programme of the Festival includes a Celebrity Concert, several musical performances and exhibitions arranged by various groups of immigrants and an Autumn Fair at Swiss Cottage Baths. Particulars about the dates and venues of the functions may be obtained from: The Secretary, CCCR, 25 Euston Road, N.W.1.

LISBETH CASSIRER ZUM 80. GEBURTSTAG (September 7, 1966)

Liebe Frau Cassirer,

Jahrzehnte sind es her als wir uns zuerst begegneten. Sie gehoerten damals dem Vorstand des Juedischen Frauenbundes, Breslau, an und Ihrer besonderen Obhut unterstand der "Maedchenklub", den der Frauenbund ins Leben gerufen hatte, um minderbemittelte, vom Schicksal wenig beguenstigte junge juedische Maedchen in jeder nur moeglichen Weise, sozial und kulturell, zu foedern. Die Mitglieder des Maedchenklubs sahen in Ihnen nicht etwa die "Vorstandsdame", die aus einer anderen, gluecklicheren Welt gelegentlich Kenntnis nahm von dem, was im Klub vor sich ging, sondern spueren sehr deutlich, dass es Ihnen ein echtes Anliegen war, das Los Ihrer Schutzbefohlenen zu erleichtern und zu verbessern.

Zu Ihrer selbstgewaehlten Aufgabe innerhalb des Juedischen Frauenbundes gehoerte ferner die Zusammenstellung und Herausgabe des "Kalenders des Juedischen Frauenbundes", der vor 1933 wohl in keinem juedischen Hause fehlte. Da Kunst in allen ihren Aspekten von je her einen wichtigen Platz in Ihrem Leben einnahm, war die Herbeischaffung des Bildermaterials fuer den Kalender eine sinnvolle Aufgabe fuer Sie, und von Jahr zu Jahr wussten Sie diesem kleinen Bilderwerk neuen Inhalt und ein neues Gesicht zu geben.

Das waren Aufgaben und Pflichten, die Sie sich selbst gesteckt hatten. Aber als dann das Schicksal in der Gestalt Hitlers in Ihr persoenliches Leben eingriff und Sie und Ihre Familie aus dem kultivierten Breslauer Heim vertrieb, als Sie zuerst in Berlin und spaeter in London ein neues Leben aufbauen mussten, da mobilisierten Sie mit unerschuetterlichem Optimismus alle Ihnen innewohnenden Energien und Ihre frueher ungenutzten manuellen Faehigkeiten, verbunden mit Ihrem immer wachen Schoenheitssinn, um Ihrem Leben in der neugewaehlten Heimat Sinn und Inhalt zu geben.

Wenn wir, Ihre Freunde, Verehrer und ehemaligen Mitarbeiter, Sie heute in Anhaenglichkeit und Freundschaft gruessen, so muessen Sie es sich gefallen lassen, dass Ihre ehrenvolle Vergangenheit ins Licht der Oeffentlichkeit gerueckt wird. In diesem Sinne, hoffe ich, werden viele Ihrer mit herzlichsten Wuenschen und freundlichster Gesinnung gedenken.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

RUSSIANS EXPEL ISRAELI DIPLOMAT

The Second Secretary at the Israeli Embassy in Moscow, Mr. David Gavish, has been expelled by Russia for "activities incompatible with the status of an accredited diplomat... espionage activities."

The accusation and expulsion order did not define the activities which it regarded as espionage. But "Izvestia" the same day accused unnamed Israeli diplomats of smuggling Zionist propaganda booklets into Russia and distributing them at an agricultural exhibition in Moscow.

Israel has formally rejected the allegations of espionage. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said that "the move of the Soviet authorities can only be interpreted as part of a propaganda campaign designed to deter natural expressions of sympathy."

According to British United Press, more Israeli diplomats have been declared *persona non grata* by the Soviet authorities since 1948 than the representatives of any other country.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Dr. S. Levenberg, the London representative of the Jewish Agency, has expressed his opposition to the approach that Israel should change her immigration policy to one which would make the basic criterion an immigrant's usefulness to the country's economy. This idea was put forward by Dr. H. H. Sharon, the retiring head of the Agency's economic department in London.

Israel, said Dr. Levenberg, must provide a home to all Jews who wished to live in the State, regardless of their ability to integrate into the country's economy. The country would have to continue taking in old and sick people, particularly as regards North Africa. Emigration from free countries, however, could be viewed on a different principle. In that instance the Israeli authorities could consider whether the migrant would fit into Israeli life and advise him in advance.

POPULATION STATISTICS

Israel's new statistical Year Book, to be published soon, shows that there were 13,225,000 Jews in the world at the end of 1964. Between 1850 and the start of the Second World War their numbers increased from nearly five million to 17 million. At the end of the war there were about 11 million.

The Year Book also states that nearly 17 per cent of the Jewish population in the world lived in Israel at the beginning of 1965 and that Israel's density of population was 128 per square kilometre last year, compared with 43 during the first population census in 1948 when the State was established.

RUMANIAN GIFT

The Rumanian Government has presented 2,500 Sifrei Torah to the Israeli Government. At a press conference in Jerusalem Dr. Zerah Warhaftig, the Minister of Religious Affairs, voiced the Israeli Government's thanks to the Bucharest authorities. Rumania had appreciated that the Sifrei Torah rightly belonged to the survivors of Rumanian Jewry who had settled in Israel, he said. He hoped this would be an example to other countries where most of the Jewish population had been either destroyed or had come to Israel.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Two Israeli delegates attended the first international conference on special education for handicapped children, held in London. They were from the Israel Foundation for Handicapped Children. The Russian delegation included two Jewish scientists from the Institute for the Handicapped in Moscow.

AMERICAN NEGROES' VISIT

Dr. Martin Luther King is expected to lead some 5,000 American Negroes on a pilgrimage to Israel in November, 1967.

JEWISH AGENCY MERGER

The Jewish Agency has decided to merge its immigration and absorption departments. The Agency's economic department and the Professional and Technical Workers' Aliya will also be merged in the new department. These amalgamations, which will form part of the Agency's general reorganisation will, it is expected, free between 300 and 400 of the 1,000 employees of the respective departments.

GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S SON AT SDE BOKER

The eldest son of Dr. Rolf Pauls, the West German Ambassador to Israel, spent a fortnight at the Sde Boker "College". Mr. Christian Pauls, a 20-year-old student, was at the college on the invitation of its founder, Mr. David Ben-Gurion.

TRAINED AS "ARYANS"

Mr. Shimon Avidan, who was the commander of the Hagana's striking force before Israel was established, revealed that in 1942, when the German Army was advancing in the Western Desert, a unit was formed of former German Jews, all "Aryan" in appearance. They were to operate as guerillas behind the German lines if Palestine were to fall to the Nazis.

Although odious to them, they had dressed in Nazi uniforms and trained to live in the spirit and manner of the German Army.

"ARM OF IMPERIALISM"

Soviet Jew Attacks Israel

An article signed by a Jew, M. Kogan, in a recent issue of the Kishinev paper, "Sovetskaya Moldavia", sharply criticises the "nationalism" of Judaism for its "reactionary dogma of the Jews being the Chosen People", because of "the Passover call... 'Next year in Jerusalem'" and because it is "an arm of the Jewish bourgeoisie and of international imperialism... killing love for the Soviet Union among some believers."

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