

# AJR

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

F. L. Brassloff

## FROM THE AUSTRIAN SCENE

Three months ago Austria commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of her liberation and her re-emergence as a democratic republic. Her success in establishing herself as an economically prosperous and politically neutral state was recorded with feeling of deep satisfaction.

There is little inclination to remember the seven years when she formed a part of Greater Germany. Former Nazis were quickly rehabilitated; they were willingly accepted and absorbed by the democratic parties. The participation of Austrians in the persecution, spoliation and liquidation of Jews belongs to the issues of which most people do not wish to be reminded. The more praiseworthy are the efforts at enlightenment, made by such competent experts as Karl Schubert, Professor for Judaic Studies at Vienna University, Mrs. Erika Weinzierl, who teaches contemporary history at the University of Salzburg, and Dr. Anton Massiczek, the author of a thought-provoking book on the Jewish humanism of Karl Marx and other stimulating studies on antisemitism. The Archives of the Austrian Resistance and the "Action against antisemitism" are engaged in eradicating widespread ignorance and deeply rooted prejudices.

### Kreisky and Ex-Nazis

The election success of the Socialist Party under the leadership of Dr. Bruno Kreisky, known to be of Jewish extraction, in March 1970, has been interpreted as an indication of antisemitism having ceased to be of relevance in Austria. According to "Die Gemeinde", the monthly of the Vienna Jewish Community, however, many Austrians appear to be grieved at the appointment of a Jew as Federal Chancellor. One of the typical jokes in circulation is the "news item" on the transfer of the seat of government from Vienna to Judenburg.

The skilful and determined politician Kreisky has adopted an attitude of contemptuous non-concern about the vulgar antisemitic slights to which he has repeatedly been subjected. Moreover, he belongs to those Socialist leaders who tend to ignore the Nazi past of persons who have been integrated into the political and social life of the country. He has therefore also gained adherents and sympathisers for his Party and himself among former National Socialists. When it was, however, revealed, shortly after the liberation celebrations, that a member of his Government, the Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Hans Oellinger, had been a member of the Nazi underground movement prior to the "Anschluss" and subsequently a member of the S.S., the habitual Austrian complacency received a shock. Kreisky bravely stood up for his appointee of whose past he had had no knowledge and

pointed out that Dr. Oellinger had left the S.S. during the war to join the German Army. After Oellinger had resigned from the Government for health reasons, the Federal Chancellor paid him the excessive compliment that he would not hesitate to reappoint him.

It soon transpired that the new Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Weihs, had also been a member of the National Socialist Party. Additional publicity, aimed at embarrassing the Socialists, was devoted to the record of the Minister of the Interior, Herr Roesch, who had failed after the war to divulge his membership with the NSDAP and the S.A. After the liberation, Roesch was indicted for being involved in neo-Nazi activities but acquitted because of insufficient evidence. He then joined the Socialist Party and started a successful political career.

In the publicity campaign a Conservative Austrian Catholic journal and the German magazine "Der Spiegel" joined forces with the Director of the Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Persecutees of the Nazi Regime, Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, who has established himself in Austria as a popular controversial figure. It is acknowledged that he has made notable contributions to tracing Nazi criminals, but his unorthodox methods are less appreciated. Moreover, Mr. Wiesenthal has given the impression of a self-appointed avenger of the victims of Nazi persecution, with a certain anti-socialist bent. A Parliamentary Committee has objected to his Documentation Centre acting as an intelligence and secret service outfit and thus assuming functions due to the competent authorities. Mr. Wiesenthal's reputation abroad, his authorship of the book "The Murderers Among Us," and the attention his frequent statements have often obtained in the international press, do not overawe the Austrian public. His prominent role in the campaign against members of the Government, however, caused the Party leadership to take counter-action.

At the Convention of the Party, its new General Secretary, Dr. Gratz, a gifted member of Dr. Kreisky's team of young bright men and Minister of Education in his Government, used threatening language: "It will soon be seen whether the State needs still the private 'Feme-Organisation' of Mr. Wiesenthal", with whom, he said, the Conservative People's Party and the "Deutsche National-Zeitung" had formed "a grotesque alliance". The term "Feme-Organisation" was no doubt out of place. The delegates, some of whom were unhappy at the tolerant attitude of the Party leadership to former Nazis, did not applaud Dr. Gratz's unwitty remark: "I am still waiting for the day when the attempt will be made to prove that our Party Chairman had belonged to the NSDAP".

Mr. Wiesenthal, in turn, announced that his

Documentation Centre would report Dr. Gratz to the authorities. He alleged that Gratz had committed the offence of defamation by calling the Centre a "Feme-Organisation". Evidence would be produced to show that the "revelations" on the Nazi records of Ministers had been provided by Socialist sources. The threat of criminal proceedings cannot be taken very seriously. Equally unrealistic is the alternative posed by the Director of the Documentation Centre: "For the Nazis or for Wiesenthal—that is the basic question, facing now not only many people all over the world but also all Jews".

The Presidium of the Vienna Jewish Community, on whose board, consisting of twenty-five members, Wiesenthal's Association of Jewish Persecutees has five seats, reasserted in a declaration "the right of every Jew and of every Austrian patriot to name former National Socialists and especially former members of the S.A. and the S.S., if they aspire to public office or hold such a position". The Israel Ambassador, Mr. Zeev Shek, stressed in a reply to an enquiry by an Austrian weekly that Mr. Wiesenthal has no connection with the Israel Government. He maintained that the Jews in Israel and Jews all over the world were taking an active interest in the work of the Documentation Centre as hundreds of thousands had suffered under the Nazi régime and were therefore interested in a just punishment of war criminals. Very appropriately and understandably, any appearance of a close involvement in the polemics between Mr. Wiesenthal and the Socialist leadership was avoided. The affair will hardly remain a major topic in Austria.

Federal Chancellor Kreisky has found it necessary to make his own position clear. When asked on Austrian television whether protests from American Jewish quarters against the threat of closing the "Jewish Documentation Centre" would raise difficulties, he replied: "That is not important." Mr. Wiesenthal stated on Dutch television that he would sue Dr. Kreisky for libel as the Federal Chancellor had described him as "a Jewish Fascist".

Observers of the German political scene may be surprised at the excitement caused by comparatively minor "revelations" about persons active in Austrian politics. The Federal Republic of Germany has certainly shown much more determination to counteract Nazism and antisemitism, but membership of National Socialist organisations has proved to be no obstacle to gaining high office, even when combined with holding responsible positions in the administration of the Third Reich. As so often, Austria lags behind in giving some attention to this issue. It should, however, not be too late for her politicians and educators to concern themselves seriously with the task of impressing upon the younger generation the need for resisting attempts to minimise the part played by a large part of the Austrian population in upholding the evil doctrines and practices of Nazism.

## AJR GENERAL MEETING

On June 18, the Annual General Meeting of the AJR was held at Hannah Karminski House. In his opening address the Chairman, Mr. A. S. Dresel, paid tribute to the memory of members of the AJR Board who had passed away: Mr. Selmar Boehm, Dr. Richard Fuchs, Mr. Julius Lowenthal, Mrs. Gertrud Schachne, and Dr. Martin Levy (Leicester).

Reviewing the current activities of the AJR, Dr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary, first dealt with *AJR Information* which had continued to serve as an indispensable link between headquarters and the members. Its columns sometimes included critical articles on questions of Jewish policy, because in times such as these a periodical cannot be produced in a political vacuum. These articles have met with many favourable comments by readers. It should, however, be kept in mind that, as the AJR comprises members of all shades of opinion, they only express the views of their authors.

Turning to the Homes for the Aged, the speaker said that the deficit of the four ordinary residential homes had decreased, but that the substantial running costs of the Home for the Infirm, Osmond House, considerably exceeded the payments received from the residents or local authorities. Two matrons retired during the past year: Mrs. Else Rosenthal (Otto Hirsch House) who, unfortunately, died shortly after her retirement, and Miss Margaret Goldschmidt (Heinrich Stahl House). The speaker paid tribute to their devoted services. New matrons were appointed for both Homes a short while ago.

One of the most pressing needs is the enlistment of more voluntary workers in the 40/50 year age bracket. Their help is not only required for the Homes, but also for the care of other elderly, lonely and frail former refugees. At a recent meeting of potential helpers, convened by the AJR and also attended by representatives of several other organisations, ways and means of implementing a comprehensive scheme in this field were discussed. A decisive contribution has already been made throughout the years by the facilities offered by the AJR Club, whose membership is steadily increasing.

Applicants to the AJR Employment Agency include a number of well qualified persons, and any employers who are able to offer positions should get in touch with the office (Tel.: 01-624 4449).

As in previous years, the AJR has co-operated with a number of other organisations including the C.B.F., Self Aid, the Jewish Welfare Board, the Leo Baeck Lodge and the Camden Council for Social Service.

In the field of restitution and compensation the Council of Jews from Germany, of which the AJR is the British constituent, has submitted proposals to the drafts of various laws

and ordinances now under consideration. They concerned, *inter alia*, the drafts of a new Social Security Law and of a new Implementary Order to the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG) which envisages the retroactive increase of annuities. Furthermore, as the result of efforts in which the Council took an important part, it is now to be expected that by an Implementary Order to the Lastenausgleichsgesetz, losses sustained in that part of the former Reich, which is now the territory of the German Democratic Republic, will be treated in the same way as those in the "Vertreibungsgebiete".

Special reports were given about Eleanor Rathbone House, the Flatlet Home at Avenue Road, Highgate, the completion of which was the most important event of the year under review. Mr. Dresel dealt with the financial problems involved, concerning both the investment costs and the estimated current costs which have to be covered by the rents. Mr. E. A. Lomnitz, Deputy General Secretary, said that the residents of Eleanor Rathbone House had gradually developed a communal life in the home. Their age composition is as follows: 25 were born before 1900, 26 between 1900 and 1910 and 7 after 1910.

In his financial report, Dr. F. E. Falk, Hon. Treasurer of the AJR, stated that according to the audited balance sheet for the year 1969, the income from subscriptions and donations amounted to £12,950 (as against £12,450 in 1968), and the expenditure to £22,900 (as against £20,000 in 1968). The increase of expenditure was partly due to the necessity of transferring a larger amount than in the preceding year to the Employees Termination Allowance Fund, which had been created at a comparatively late stage in order to provide termination payments to staff members of long standing in cases of retirement. There was also a rise of expenditure for *AJR Information*, mainly due to the increase of printing costs and postage. The speaker appealed to members in business to help to reduce the deficit of *AJR Information* by advertising on behalf of their firms. As in previous years, that part of the expenditure which exceeded the income from subscriptions and donations was covered by an allocation out of the funds of the Jewish Trust Corporation, administered by the Allocations Committee of the C.B.F. However, these funds, the speaker stressed, are limited. It is, therefore, becoming increasingly essential to develop the AJR into a self-supporting organisation. Members should help to secure the continuity of the AJR's important activities which will have to go on for a long time to come, by voluntarily increasing their subscriptions or by supplementing them with additional donations.

At the elections which followed the reports,

the Hon. Officers were re-elected and elected respectively in accordance with the proposals submitted by the Executive and published in the June issue of *AJR Information*. This means that Dr. Eric Dux, a member of the Otto Hirsch House Committee, and Mr. F. Kolmar, Chairman of the Heinrich Stahl House Committee, were elected as new members of the Executive. The new members of the Board are Mrs. Eva Trent, a member of the House Committee for Eleanor Rathbone House, and Mr. H. C. Mayer, Chairman of the Otto Hirsch House Committee.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. W. M. Behr, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and especially recalled that the implementation of the flatlet scheme was, to a large extent, due to the persistent efforts of Mr. Dresel.

### INCREASE OF INDEMNIFICATION ANNUITIES

When this issue went to press it was learned that the Bundesrat has approved the Federal Government's Amendment Order for increasing payments of annuities under the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG). The increases are retroactive. The details will be published as soon as the text of the Order has become available. As readers know, any reassessments are carried out by the indemnification authorities automatically. In view of the great number of cases, this always takes some time but individual enquiries may easily result in unnecessary delays of the cases concerned.

### LASTENAUSGLEICH

#### Erhöhung der Hauptentschädigung

Das Lastenausgleichsgesetz (LAG) bestimmt in Par. 230, dass Wohnsitz oder Aufenthalt des Geschädigten in der Bundesrepublik oder West-Berlin am 31. Dezember 1952 eine grundlegende Anspruchsvoraussetzung bilden.

Dieser Grundsatz ist in der II. LDV zum LAG zu Gunsten von Verfolgten durchbrochen worden, die am Stichtag ausserhalb der Bundesrepublik (oder West-Berlin) gelebt haben. Für diese Verfolgten ist allerdings nur eine beschränkte Entschädigung bewilligt worden, und zwar in Höhe von 75% der Hauptentschädigung.

Die Bundesregierung beabsichtigt, diese Kürzung der Hauptentschädigung (plus 4% Zinsen p.a. ab 1953) ohne Antrag des Verfolgten nachzuzahlen. Da viele der ursprünglichen Bescheide vor mehreren Jahren ergangen sind und viele Antragsteller verzogen sein mögen, empfiehlt es sich, in diesen Fällen die neue Anschrift mitzuteilen. Sollte der Antragsteller verstorben sein, wird die Beibringung des Erbnachweises erforderlich sein. Sollte der Ergänzungsbescheid längere Zeit ausbleiben, wird ein kurzes Erinnerungsschreiben an das zuständige Ausgleichsamts ratsam erscheinen.

Anweisungen des Bundesausgleichsamts werden noch erwartet.

### N.P.D. SETBACK

A major setback was suffered by the extreme Right-Wing National Democratic Party in the recent Lander elections.

In Lower Saxony, only 3.2 per cent of the electorate voted for the party, which is no longer represented in the State parliament. In the 1967 State elections, the N.P.D. obtained 7 per cent of the total votes and ten seats in the legislature, and in last year's general elections 4.6 per cent.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, the N.P.D. received 1.1 per cent and in Saarland 3.4 per cent of the total vote, as against 3.1 per cent and 5.7 per cent respectively in the general elections.

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# HOME NEWS

## ELECTION RESULTS

Forty Jews — nine Conservatives and 31 Labour—were elected to Parliament. For the first time there will be two Jewish women in the House of Commons: Mrs. Sally Oppenheim (Conservative) and Mrs. Renee Short (Labour). Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for the Social Services, is the only Jew in Mr. Edward Heath's Cabinet.

Major-General James d'Avigdor-Goldsmid's election and the return of his elder brother, Sir Henry, ensure the continuity of "brotherly teams" among Jewish Members of Parliament.

Among the newly-elected members are Mr. Michael Fidler, President of the Board of Deputies, Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, Mr. Toby Jessel, Mr. Harold Soref and Mr. Robert J. Adley on the Conservative side and, on the Labour side, Mr. Greville Janner, Mr. Gerald Kaufman, and Mr. Clinton Davis. Five Jewish Labour members of the previous parliament lost their seats: Mr. John Diamond, Mr. David Winnick, Mr. Stanley Henig, Mr. Eric Moonman, and Mr. Arnold Shaw.

The National Front—an amalgam of the British National Party, the League of Empire Loyalists, the Greater Britain Movement and other extremist groups—polled a total of 11,449 votes in the ten constituencies in which its candidates fought. Colin Jordan, leader of the British Movement, received 704 (2.5 per cent) of the votes in Aston Birmingham, the seat of Mr. Julius Silverman. Sir Oswald Mosley's Union Movement had no candidates in the general election.

As a result of the defeat of some of its prominent Labour supporters, the pro-Arab parliamentary lobby sustained losses. At least five former pro-Arab MPs were defeated, apart from Mrs. Margaret McKay who did not contest the election.

## PROTESTS AGAINST LENINGRAD ARRESTS

University students picketed the Soviet Embassy in Bayswater in protest against the arrest of eight Jews in Leningrad, while a two-man delegation from the Universities Committee for Soviet Jewry had a two-hour meeting inside with officials.

A delegation from the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain went to the Soviet Embassy to hand in a resolution passed at their annual conference at Buxton, calling on Russia to give Soviet Jews their rights. An embassy official accepted the resolution, and promised to try to arrange a meeting with the Ambassador. The following day the Russian Ambassador stated he could see no point in meeting the delegation.

## Daubings on Russian Embassy

Soviet property, including the Russian Embassy, was daubed by young Jews, in protest against the recent arrest of Jews in the Soviet Union. The Star of David was painted on the doorway of the embassy's consular department in Bayswater and a wall of the porch was smeared with red paint. The Russian Shop in Holborn was painted with a red Star of David and the offices of the Soviet Weekly newspaper and of Aeroflot were daubed with 3 ft.-high symbols.

The Board of Deputies expressed regret that "the indignation aroused about the present arrests of Jews in the Soviet Union provoked some persons into manifesting their protest by the daubing of certain buildings in London," and stated its disapproval of unlawful manifestations.

## MAYOR OF PRESTON

The small Jewish community of Preston held a service to commemorate the installation of Alderman Mrs. Rita Lytton as Mayor of the County Borough. The mayor was congratulated on the honour, which reflected great credit and dignity on the community of 40 families of which she and her husband are members. This is the first time Preston has had a Jewish mayor.

## BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Sir Max Leonard Rosenheim, KBE, president of the Royal College of Physicians, was made a life peer in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Other awards include knighthoods for Mr. Leonard Frederick Behrens, CBE, of Manchester, for public services; and for Mr. Arnold Weinstock, managing director, General Electric and English Electric companies, for services to export.

Mr. Samuel Witzendorf of Westcliff-on-Sea, civil service chief executive officer, was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order. Mr. Bernard Gottlieb, under-secretary, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, received the CB.

The honours bestowed on former refugees were reported in our previous issue.

## APPOINTMENT

Dr. Robert Halle has been elected president of the Paddington Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Halle is a Grand Vice-President of B'nai B'rith and a member of the AJR.

## GRANTS FOR CULTURAL WORK

The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, whose funds derive from the last instalment of the German payment to the Claims Conference, has granted a total of £36,755 to British applicants. These include grants to various Jewish teachers training colleges and seminaries and for the publication of books including the Leo Baeck 1970 Yearbook, for the distributing of films of Jewish interest, for students, for educational posters for Jewish festivals and memorial posters in three languages on the martyrs of the ghetto uprising.

## RABBI REINHART FUND

A memorial fund in the name of Rabbi Harold Reinhart has been established by the Westminster Synagogue. Rabbi Reinhart was the congregation's minister from 1957 until his death in 1969. The fund will endow a scholarship for "The Reinhart Student" at the Leo Baeck College, in the founding of which Rabbi Reinhart played a leading part. The work of the National Peace Council, to which Rabbi Reinhart gave many years of dedicated service, will also be supported. A selection of his writings and addresses is to be published.

## PSYCHIATRIC CARE

The mental health casework supervisor of the Jewish Welfare Board, Mr. M. Schneider, has revealed that an increasing number of people in the early twenties are receiving help from social workers and psychiatrists for emotional disturbances caused mainly by the generation gap.

Mr. Schneider said that about 35 youngsters had received help. Their problems centred largely on the general malaise of young people today. In many cases there was a total lack of contact between themselves and their parents and there was a rebellion against things Jewish. In certain instances this led to youngsters taking "soft" drugs. Another serious problem was that of the senile, who would increasingly need social-psychiatric help. It was reported that the board had now set up three psychiatric hostels in London to deal with people of all ages.

With acknowledgements to the news service of the *Jewish Chronicle*

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# ANGLO-JUDAICA

## Rise in Orthodox Marriages

During 1969, 1,922 synagogue marriages were solemnised in Britain, as compared to 1,823 the previous year. A similar rise is apparent also in marriages among the general population in recent years. In 1966-69 the number of marriages for the general population in England and Wales was 12 per cent higher than in 1961-65, but in the same period the rise for the Jewish community was only 2 per cent higher than in 1961-65.

The most marked proportionate rise is shown by the Right-wing Orthodox section, which rose 60 per cent and, by 1969, had risen further to more than double the average in 1961-65, whilst figures for the Sephardi and Reform groups have hardly changed.

## Redundant London Synagogues

Because of financial deficits, a number of well-known London synagogues may disappear. The joint treasurer of the United Synagogue, Mr. George Dee, has stated that there was a sentimental reason for retaining the Great Synagogue, but common sense urged that the members be joined with those at the East London Synagogue. If the Cricklewood Synagogue could not make itself financially viable, it should merge with Willesden as soon as possible.

These moves would enable the building up of stronger synagogues and would allow the United Synagogue to redeploy its assets by selling certain sites and using the proceeds to develop urgently needed centres in the peripheral areas of London.

Something like £70,000 per annum had to be found without delay, which would rise to some £130,000 per annum within five years.

## Alderman Fidler Re-elected

Alderman Michael Fidler, the newly elected M.P. for Bury and Radcliffe, was re-elected president of the Board of Deputies for another triennial term of office. Sir Samuel Fisher and Mr. Victor Mishcon were re-elected as the Board's two vice-presidents.

## Award for Professor Cassin

Professor René Cassin, the Nobel Prize-winner, has been voted the first Lionel Cohen Award for services to humanity, instituted by the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues to mark the 80th birthday of its president, Lord Cohen.

## Travelling Scholarships

The Jewish Memorial Council has awarded Sir Robert Waley Cohen memorial travelling scholarships to the Rev. Raymond Apple (Hampstead), Rabbi Cyril Harris (Kenton) and Rabbi Abraham Levy (assistant to the Haham). All three are Jews' College graduates.

Three scholarships were awarded this year instead of one, and none will be given next year, because of "the exceptional number of excellent applications received".

## Israel Stamp Collectors' Centre in London

An Israel Stamp Collectors' Centre has been set up in London in order to promote the collecting of Israeli Postage Stamps and the formation of stamp clubs. Details may be obtained from: The Secretary, Israel Stamp Collectors Centre, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London S.W.1. (Tel: 01-930 5152).

## NEW LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION

51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3

### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

are held regularly on the Eve of Sabbath and Festivals at 6.30 p.m. and on the day at 11 a.m.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Democratic Nominations

Four Jews have won all four of the Democratic nominations in New York. This is the first time in the State's history that a party has nominated so many Jews for top offices.

Mr. Arthur J. Goldberg, formerly America's U.N. Representative, won the State primary contest and will stand as Democratic candidate for governor against the present incumbent, Mr. Nelson Rockefeller. Mr. Richard L. Ottinger was nominated for the U.S. Senate and Mr. Adam Walinsky for State Attorney-General. Mr. Arthur Levitt, the incumbent State Controller, was not opposed. The only non-Jew is Mr. Basil A. Paterson, a Negro nominated for Lieutenant-Governor with Mr. Goldberg's support.

### Rabbis Opt Out of Army

Of the 38 newly ordained Conservative rabbis this year, only four have chosen to enter the chaplaincy to serve Jews in the American armed forces, although three years ago all members of the graduating class of the Jewish Theological Seminary would have done so. One of the four who joined up has as many objections to the war as any of his colleagues, but felt that the needs of the Jewish men took precedence over the feeling that he was desecrating God's name by serving the military during a war that in his view was improper.

The Conservative, Orthodox and Reform rabbinate all dropped the requirement that rabbinical students should spend two years in the chaplaincy after graduation, when the Vietnam war became the focal point of bitter controversy. The organisation of Conservative rabbis, however, requires the young graduates to accept posts for two years in communities in need of rabbis, too small or too poor to pay the going rate, so that the young men serve at salaries no higher than those they would have received in the armed forces.

### Vigilantes' Raid

Twenty-seven members of the Jewish Defence League were arrested after storming through the New York offices of the Amtorg Trading Corporation, an official Soviet Agency. They said their action was in retaliation for Soviet raids on 50 Jewish homes.

### PROBLEM OF SMALL ARGENTINIAN COMMUNITIES

Mr. Jose Liberman, the Jewish Education Council's chief supervisor, reported on his tour of the provinces to the Argentine Vaad Hakehilot (Communal Council). The meeting was held in the Jewish communal centre in La Plata, some 40 miles from Buenos Aires, as the Vaad Hakehilot wanted to show its support for the town's 2,000-strong community whose centre was bombed in May. Mr. Liberman warned that some 50 small provincial Jewish communities would disappear because there was no Jewish content in their lives, and that most of the other small communities in the country, both Ashkenazim and Sephardim, faced the same problem.

There were many mixed marriages in these communities, among them Jews who had emigrated from Europe, and Jewish children went to church with Christian friends because there was little or no access to Jewish knowledge. During his tour he met with hostility from many Jews who were reluctant to accept links with organised Jewish life.

### OLD ACQUAINTANCES

Our friend PEM is on holiday. He will resume his column next month.

## FRANCE

### New Jewish Centre

Work has begun at Aix-en-Provence on the building of the 60th Jewish Community Centre in France, to which the Central British Fund is contributing approximately £13,000. The ceremony was performed by French Jewish composer, Darius Milhaud. Famous for its annual festivals of music, Aix is a university town of renown with numerous Jewish students.

Western Europe today—25 years after the holocaust—has nearly 100 Jewish community centres in eleven different countries. Much of the rebuilding was made possible by Claims Conference moneys and by the aid of the "Joint" and the Central British Fund.

### Guy de Rothschild Honoured

Baron Guy de Rothschild, the President of the Central Consistory of French Jews, has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Legion of Honour. The citation stressed the Baron's functions within the Jewish community. At the ceremony, the Chief Rabbi of France, Dr. Jacob Kaplan, who acted as the new Officer's "patron", spoke of the great satisfaction felt by French Jews at the Government's decision. (JTA)

### NORWEGIAN MEMORIAL

Norway's "Home Front" Museum has been opened in Oslo. The museum is Norway's tribute to the war effort of her people. The Jews are remembered too, for many escaped to Sweden with the help of Resistance workers and films taken secretly at the time, and models, show the dangers of their journeys. The names of every concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Europe appear on a copper map, with those in which Norwegians, including many Jews, were imprisoned, underlined. A Norwegian Jewess, who wishes to remain anonymous, spent many years helping to prepare the museum. All the members of her family died in Auschwitz concentration camp.

The director of the museum, Mr. Knut Haugland, stated simply the reason for opening the museum: "Norway's young people should have a place where they can see what it is like to lose the privilege of freedom, so that they may understand why their parents and grandparents fought for it."

### SOUTH AFRICA

Disgust has been expressed by Cape Town's German community at an incident in the German Club there, when a group of members waving swastikas and chanting Nazi songs shouted "Get rid of the Jews", and "Judens raus". "Deutschland über Alles" was sung and a member spoke in praise of Hitler. An inquiry was made into the incident, and two club members were asked to resign.

The Rev. W. A. Landman, scribe of the Cape Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, told the pupils of the Herzlia Jewish day school in Cape Town that the contribution of Jews to the progress of South Africa was "out of all proportion to their numbers". There was, he said, no easy solution to the many problems of South Africa, and a *modus vivendi* would have to be found to ensure the co-existence of all in South Africa. Hatred or contempt of others or a denial of dignity to others would not bring a solution.

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## JEWRY IN THE EAST

### SUPREME SOVIET ELECTIONS

In the new Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. at least six Jews have been elected, and a further three members have surnames which indicate Jewish origin.

Of the six deputies elected to the Supreme Soviet in 1966, only three were re-elected this year—Ilya Ehrenburg died in September, 1967, and Josef Kotin and Rafael Khersonsky were dropped from the 1970 list of candidates. The other three re-elected this year are: Benjamin Emmanuilevich Dymshitz, Yuli Briosovich Khariton and Alexander Borisovich Chakovsky. The three Jewish newcomers are Georgi Alexandrovich Berdichevsky, Mikhail Yosifovich Abelman and Vladimir Israelevich Peller.

### ANTI-SOVIET WRITINGS SMUGGLED

*Pravda* has complained that "slandorous anti-Soviet writings" have been smuggled into the U.S.S.R. by Zionists from an organisation named as the "League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews". The paper stated that this was a new variety of fascism and a brazen provocation. The purveyors of this literature had turned to the U.S.S.R. because "fewer and fewer young people take the Zionist bait in the developed capitalist countries and fewer and fewer young Jews express the wish to 'return' to Israel to 'develop' the temporarily-occupied Arab lands and to be cut down by the bullets of Palestinian guerillas."

### NEW ARRESTS

*Leningradskaya Pravda* reported that a "group of criminals trying to seize a scheduled aircraft" at Leningrad's airport were detained on June 15. That same night eight Jews were arrested in the city. Six of them had been among the 37 signatories to a petition to U Thant asking for his help in securing permission to emigrate to Israel. Before this, two Georgian Jews had also been arrested, both of whom had signed a petition to the United Nations.

Almost simultaneously with the arrest of the alleged hijackers, Soviet secret police searched Jewish homes in Leningrad, Moscow, Riga, Kharkov, Tbilisi and other places, seizing Jewish books for "further examination."

A typewritten document circulating unofficially in Moscow quotes a letter written by a Jewish citizen of Leningrad to the chief prosecutor of the Soviet Union, appealing for the release of the eight detained Jews. The letter stated that the arrested Jews had had nothing to do with the reported hijack attempt.

### MUSIC BAN

The organisers of the Gstaad music festival were informed by David Oistrakh, the violinist, that he could not attend because of prior commitments. The Soviet Ministry of Culture told them that it would not allow Soviet artists to participate in any event organised by friends of Israel particularly when, as in the case of Gstaad, such an event is directed by Yehudi Menuhin, who "openly supports the Zionist aggressors".

Mr. Menuhin, as president of the International Council of Music, has informed the Soviet authorities that the 1971 congress of the International Council, which was to have been held in Moscow, will not now take place there.

### INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

#### Appointment of New Director

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva have accepted Mr. Nicholas Burckhardt's resignation as Director of the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Arolsen (West Germany). Mr. Burckhardt will be succeeded by the former Deputy Director of the ITS, Mr. Albert de Cocatrix.

H. W. Freyhan

## MUSICIAN AND HUMANITARIAN

## Bruno Walter's Letters

It is difficult to say what Bruno Walter means to those who know his interpretations only from recordings. But there can be little doubt that those who experienced his live performances—and especially those music lovers whose memories include his pre-1933 activities—will be attracted and highly fascinated by a recently published volume of his letters.\* His surviving daughter, *Lotte Walter Lindt*, is responsible for the excellent editorial work and for the indispensable annotations: *Wolfgang Stresemann's* preface is deeply appreciative of the great musician.

"Und wo ihr's packt, da ist es interessant"—Goethe's words are true of every page of this book, which does indeed represent "ein volles Menschenleben" in Goethe's sense. Bruno Walter was more than an outstanding conductor, or rather: what made him so outstanding was the synthesis of musicianship and extra-musical endowment.

Those who are acquainted with his books, above all the late "Von der Musik und vom Musizieren", will be aware of his gifts as a writer and thinker. He himself felt that for him, as for many great musicians, words were not a congenial means of expression—a self-assessment with which one must disagree. Like his books, the letters often show an extraordinary mastery of style which, as is quite evident, grows with the gradual maturing of his personality. No one could overlook the difference between the early letters—naïvely assertive and even boastful and not seldom uncharitable to colleagues—and the letters of his middle and old age, which are distinguished by a marked sense of proportion, by humility, tolerance and wisdom. And his literary insight rose to a level at which he could convey his impressions of Thomas Mann's greatest novels to their author in terms not unworthy of such a challenge.

In many respects, the letters supplement the autobiographical information laid down in Walter's "Thema und Variationen", except that the letters cover the time from his 19th to the last year of his life. Moreover, while

the autobiography relates memories, the letters are simultaneous with the actual events and experiences and consequently convey a far greater degree of spontaneity.

The recipients range from his closest relations to his famous contemporaries: composers like Mahler, R. Strauss, Pfitzner, Schreker, Krenek, Korngold; conductors like Toscanini, Furtwaengler, Klemperer, Sir Adrian Boult, Mitropoulos, Krauss, Boehm.

The early letters illustrate the beginner's bitter struggle for recognition which he was spared as little as most of his colleagues. His Jewish descent made him even more vulnerable. With some reluctance he followed the advice of Mahler and others by abandoning the family name of Schlesinger. He explains to his parents: "Mahlers halten es aber auch fuer unbedingt notwendig; sie meinen ich sollte mich Bruno Walther nennen; schauderhaft, nicht wahr? Aber eine solche glueckliche Gelegenheit, etwas zu werden, das Erlangen einer so bedeutenden Stellung ist dieses Opfer wert".

The public image of the later Bruno Walter is largely confirmed by the letters. His tact and his charm are predominant, but his energy and fighting quality which he could muster where his art was at stake are also reflected in more than one instance. When faced with incompetence or impertinence he could react with dignified firmness. There is no finer example than his reply to the Swiss professor who thought fit to invoke Walter's artistic and human integrity in support of Furtwaengler in 1946. Walter writes: "Ich glaube nicht, dass ich gemahnt werden muss, an die Kunst zu denken, und muss bitten, mich in Fragen der Menschlichkeit der mir sehr vernehmlichen Stimme meines eigenen Gewissens zu ueberlassen".

His musical outlook was sharply defined. The music which meant anything to him began with Palestrina and ended with those twentieth-century composers who had not abandoned tonality. Towards Schoenberg and his followers he retained a negative attitude, and he passionately (and perhaps unreasonably) contested the assertion that Schoenberg's later works had any links with Mahler.

As may be expected he was frequently obliged to give his opinion on a work which he disliked. He usually told the composer: "Ihre Musik ist mir fremd". With this tactful formula, he would bypass any absolute judgement and instead humbly emphasise his own inability to come to terms with the music.

Walter's life was rich in friendship. His correspondence offers ample evidence of the lasting and unshaken friendship with Thomas Mann and his whole family, and likewise with Ossip Gabrilowitsch and his wife (Mark Twain's daughter). Other relationships did not remain free of temporary conflicts, and these cases include not only Alma Mahler but Mahler himself, who broke off the correspondence for some time when Walter, still inexperienced, thought it wise to postpone his acceptance of a post at the Vienna Opera.

In the 1920s, Walter criticised Alma for permitting Krenek to use Mahler's sketches for the Tenth Symphony. He maintained this opposition on principal grounds in 1961 when he heard of Deryck Cooke's attempt at comple-

tion. During and after the 1914-18 war, Walter felt as a patriotic German. While he admired Kurt Eisner's personality he abhorred the prospect of a Bolshevised Germany. But he was not averse to conducting in the U.S.S.R., nor was the ultra-nationalistic Pfitzner, for whom Walter tried to secure a Russian engagement. (Pfitzner was actually born in Moscow, though of German parents.)

Walter's reaction to the Nazi régime was too obvious to need any comment. The early letters confirm the strange coincidence of his encounter with Heydrich's father, an operatic singer who intrigued against Walter during the young conductor's first appointment at the Cologne Opera—whether from anti-semitism, we are not told.

More significant than Walter's hatred of Nazism is his attitude towards his former German friends and colleagues after 1945.

In the negotiations which preceded his Munich appointment in 1912, Walter had sought advice and support from Richard Strauss. Occasional differences never affected his admiration of Strauss's music. The letters contain no reference to Strauss's notorious action in 1933 when he took over a concert from which Walter was ousted by the Nazis. (In a letter to Stefan Zweig, Strauss later claimed that he had done this only for the sake of the orchestra.) Nevertheless, after 1945 Walter continued to conduct Strauss's music and reacted angrily when an American cast suspicion on the *Metamorphosen* as a "memorial to Hitler". Walter not only refuted this senseless allegation but also wrote with great warmth of this masterpiece.

Furtwaengler's proposed appearance in Chicago in 1949 stirred up a hostile campaign. Walter refused to join in. Before 1914, he had tried to promote his younger colleague's career since he felt akin to his musical outlook. Their later relations were less happy: a certain amount of rivalry arose when both strove after leading posts in Berlin. Then came the Third Reich and Furtwaengler's stay in Germany. When he appealed to Walter over the Chicago affair Walter refused, first of all, to discuss their old quarrels. But he continued:

"Bitte bedenken Sie doch, dass Ihre Kunst Jahre hindurch als ein aeußerst wirksames Mittel der Auslandspropaganda fuer das Regime der Teufel verwendet wurde, dass Sie durch Ihre bedeutende Persoenlichkeit und Ihr grosses Talent diesem Regime wertvolle Dienste leisteten, und dass Anwesenheit und

Continued on page 6

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## BRUNO WALTER'S LETTERS

Taetigkeit eines Kuenstlers Ihres Ranges auch in Deutschland selbst jenen furchtbaren Verbrechern zu kulturellem und moralischem Kredit verhalf, oder mindestens ihm betraechtlich zu Hilfe kam. Bedenken Sie ferner, dass Sie schliesslich zwei Jahre hindurch im Reich der Nazi gelebt haben, ohne von Ihrem Entsetzen ueber das, was dort vorging, zum Extremen gedraengt worden zu sein, und dass Sie dort Titel und Aemter getragen haben. Was bedeutet dagegen Ihr hilfreiches Verhalten in einzelnen Faellen juedischer Not?"

Continuing in a more conciliatory tone, he asks Furtwaengler to show understanding for the reactions of Nazi victims and of others who could hardly be expected to appreciate his inner dilemma under the régime. He assures the German conductor that he himself will keep aloof from the campaign and postulates "dass endlich das Zueren und Nachzueren der innerlichen Bereitschaft zur Versoehnlichkeit Platz zu machen hat, sofern man nicht einem unzweifelhaften Verbrechertum gegenueber steht".

The negative aspects of Walter's attitude conform to the views held by men like Toscanini and Thomas Mann. No such criticism appears in his later correspondence with musicians who had also served under Hitler, and Walter seems oblivious of the fact that Furtwaengler had not only helped individual Jews but had been one of the few who, in 1933, had publicly protested against the dismissal of prominent Jewish artists, including Walter!

Averse to unforgiving hatred, Walter himself later decided to conduct again in Germany and Austria.

This whole dilemma reached its peak in Walter's relationship with that great German musician who had been his close friend, in spite of being an exponent of cultural, though not of racial, antisemitism long before 1933: Hans Pfitzner.

One must welcome the editor's decision to

include a large number of Walter's letters to Pfitzner. They represent certain aspects of the German-Jewish tragedy with great poignancy.

The friendship was intimate; unlike Mahler and Strauss, Pfitzner was addressed by his Christian name and with "du". Walter's young daughters were especially fond of "Onkel Hans".

It was Walter who, with Alma's support, had persuaded an initially reluctant Mahler to perform Pfitzner's *Die Rose vom Liebesgarten* at the Vienna Opera. Later, many of Pfitzner's major works had their première under Walter, above all *Palestrina*, which remained for Walter one of the greatest achievements in German opera.

Pfitzner was a difficult person who could get quarrelsome over the slightest matter. "Ich bin ein böser Kerl," he himself confessed. Walter had a deep understanding of the friend's complex nature: "Du bist geboren, Dich zu graemen und andere zu erfreuen". Conflicts were by no means rare, but they were always followed by reconciliation.

In his attacks against Paul Bekker's Beethoven book Pfitzner had used antisemitic arguments, modified by recognition of individual Jews. At that time, Pfitzner even had personal contacts with Hitler although his first wife was the granddaughter of the Jewish-born composer, Ferdinand Hiller, a friend of Mendelssohn.

In 1933, many Nazi musicians tried to promote Pfitzner's cause by pointing to the anti-semitic and nationalistic views of this "truly German" composer. Nevertheless, it was Strauss who continued to reap all the honours. It seems that Hitler came to dislike Pfitzner ("he argues like a talmudic rabbi"), and a confidential Nazi document — quoted in *J. Wulf, Musik im Dritten Reich* — states that the composer was quarrelsome and unfriendly and that neither he nor his wife were members of any Nazi organisation, but that his attitude towards Nazism was "positive".

Pfitzner's correspondence with Walter continued for some time after the conductor's emigration. Walter, assured of Pfitzner's unchanged feelings, performed *Palestrina* abroad in spite of the difficulties which arose from the composer's pro-Nazi utterances.

Some time before the war, the correspondence must have ceased. In 1946, Pfitzner, who now had to spend his old age in great poverty, resumed contact. Walter, "tief erschüttert" by his friend's distress, immediately tried to help: by writing to the American occupation authorities on Pfitzner's behalf, and by sending food parcels. He enquired after their common friend, the writer, Paul Cossmann, who had died in Theresienstadt.

But Pfitzner's unrelenting German chauvinism shocked Walter. "Ich bringe es nicht fertig, Deine Bemerkung unerwidert zu lassen, dass man die Greuelmaerchen, die in diesem Kriege, wie im vorigen, entstanden seien, nicht glauben solle. Das Entsetzliche, was geschehen ist, uebersteigt alles, was die Phantasie an Grausamkeit ausdenken koennte. Auch werden die Greuel der Konzentrationslager, der Gasvergiftungskammern, usw. von den Nazis selbst ohne weiteres zugegeben; sie schieben nur die Schuld auf die Fuehrenden unter sich ab.—Ich haette das peinliche Thema nicht beruehrt, wenn ich mich nicht durch Deine Bemerkung dazu veranlasst gefuehlt haette. Lasst uns in unserer neuerlichen Verbindung vermeiden, Trennendes zu

beruehren; es ist genug da, was uns verbindet".

The embittered old man did not respond to this appeal. Himself impoverished, he was not above a mean display of envy: "Ich goenne Dir aufrichtig, wenn Du dagegen im Triumph durch das germanolfreie Europa ziehst". To this ugly outburst, Walter replied: "Was den Triumphzug betrifft, so will ich Dir nur sagen, dass meine Reise zu dem Zweck unternommen wurde, die Asche meiner Frau in Gretes Grab in Lugano beizusetzen (Grete, Walter's younger daughter, had been shot by her husband in 1939), und da ich nun einmal nach Europa ging, habe ich mich entschlossen, auf dem Wege zu dirigieren, um den Einladungen . . . aus Ländern, die mir freundlich gesinnt waren und geblieben sind, . . . dankbar Folge zu leisten".

Deeply wounded, yet still seeking some common ground, Walter finds these moving words: "In der Tat ist ein Abgrund zwischen Deiner und meiner Denkweise, den ich durch eine Erwiderng wahrscheinlich nur vergrössern wuerde. In einem stimme ich mit Dir ueberein: in der Treue bis zum letzten Hauch zur H-moll Messe, Faust, Freischütz und Eichendorff".

This must have been the end of their correspondence, the end of a relationship which had lasted for half a century. But so ineradicable were the old feelings, so profound was Walter's love of Pfitzner's music, that after Pfitzner's death in 1949, he entered into correspondence with the composer's second wife (whom he had never met) without any mention of the estrangement that had occurred. Later he thanked her for some records and scores of Pfitzner's works, again recalling none but harmonious memories.

The essence of Bruno Walter is in those words which he addressed to Mahler but which serve even more to explain his affinity with Mozart:

"Gross ist ja nur die ruhige Schönheit, die aus einer leidenschaftlich bewegten, und erschütternd nur die Leidenschaft, die aus einer zu innerer Ruhe gelangten Seele fliesst".

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E. G. Lowenthal

## FRAGMENTS OF A CHRONICLE

A New Book on Emigration

Kurt R. Grossmann, formerly secretary-general of the German League for Human Rights in Berlin, has made a name as an author and speaker, particularly on issues relating to persecution and aid for persecuted persons. He has been in New York since 1939 and now aged 72 he has remained agile, alert and communicative. In early 1933 he escaped to Prague as a political refugee. There and later on in Paris he worked in refugee aid organisations. He has seen and experienced much, probably a good deal more than the average political or "racial" persecutee. In his capacity as a journalist for a long time closely connected with the work of international Jewish organisations in the U.S.A., he has collected much material on the problems of interest to him, and in the course of the past 25 years he has written a number of books on these matters, among which "The Jewish Refugee" (together with Arieh Tartakower, New York, 1944) deserves special mention here. Thus Grossmann has become an expert on many matters that resulted from political persecution and politically motivated escapes.

Now he has written a 400-page book entitled "Emigration—Geschichte der Hitler-Flüchtlinge 1933-1945" (Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Frankfurt/Main 1969; DM 48).

To write a history of the emigration enforced by Hitler presupposes an all-round view of the situation and a balanced judgment. Such an investigation demands a correspondingly wide framework; it ought, as a collateral, to include the immigration. One might assume that one author could not undertake and accomplish such a work on his own, but that a team of experts would be required to cope with it in view of the manifold and varied aspects which must be taken into account regarding *emigration* and in view of the various forms and opportunities, the conse-

quences and results of *immigration* into the countries of the world. The latter range of subjects would obviously have to include an examination of the question as to whether and to what extent integration into the new homeland succeeded; therefrom it might perhaps be possible to build up a picture of the fate of at least the first immigrant generation. As far as the group of Jewish refugees—undoubtedly the numerically largest refugee group—is concerned, a historical and sociological study of this kind would have to concentrate naturally on the chief countries of resettlement, i.e. on the U.S.A. (plus South America), on Palestine/Israel and on Britain (plus Commonwealth countries).

Grossmann's "Emigration," arranged largely on the stages of his own escape and what it entailed, has turned into something which differs vastly from what is commonly understood under a history of emigration.

The author proceeds from his own emigration experience in three countries. A selective chronicle, recognisable by the frequent use of the first person singular in the descriptive passages, runs through the entire book. It is supplemented by general material on the subject discussed, which in part is known from the comprehensive specialised literature available and in part is obviously taken from the author's archives. Individual episodes such as the case of Professor Theodor Lessing and the affair about the *Pariser Tageblatt* play a not inconsiderable part and it is laudable that tragedies such as the Odyssey of the St. Louis have been recorded for posterity. Other events are used for longish digressions as for instance the escape of Police Vice-President Dr. Bernhard Weiss, the *Neue Weltbuehne* (Prague), the abduction of author Berthold Jacob, the meeting with Otto Strasser.

Grossmann is most interesting when he reports from his own immediate experience. Two facts show how very much his own fate overshadows the book. First of all it is strikingly filled with personal reminiscences and quotations and references from his own publications—nearly a hundred of them! Secondly the author is particularly weak on events at which he was not present personally, where he did not have sufficient material or did not properly utilise existing material. A case in point is the only 16-page section on Britain's attitude towards the refugee problem; it deals chiefly with the "Tribunals" which "enemy aliens" had to attend soon after the outbreak of war, then with the much discussed internment a year later and, finally, with the establishment of "aliens" companies in the Pioneer Corps. As if there was nothing else to tell about the refugees in Great Britain! Their number, the extent of their further migrations, their self-help institutions, their gradual integration, their naturalisation, their contribution towards the life and work of the host country would have been of interest. Documentary material for this, surely available in abundance, could have been procured. Shanghai, which became a last haven for thousands in 1939/40, rates only one page, Canada only half a page. Switzerland fares somewhat better, but much well-known material is repeated and quoted. Chapter 15, entitled "Help from the U.S.A.?" deals almost exclusively with the rigid quota legislation;

similarly the description of the immigration into Palestine dwells mainly on immigration difficulties while little is said about absorption.

A few factual mistakes have crept in as well. Some statistics are given without naming the source, others are quoted incompletely and therefore liable to be misunderstood. A subject index—apart from the persons register—would have been useful.

The subject matter which has been dealt with may be sufficient for a somewhat extended chronicle of experiences; the report is frequently like a vividly written feuilleton. It reads well, testifies to the best spirit of human helpfulness and affords insights not only into the author's own fate, not an easy one, but also into the fate of many other, chiefly political, emigrés. It reflects in many ways the constantly tense, tragic and frequently hopeless situation of those uncertain and anxious 12 years.

However, what we object to emphatically is that the contents of the book correspond in no way to its ambitious title. At best, this new publication can rank as a chronicle-style anthology supplemented by some illuminative details. It must not create the impression, and with it raise the false hope, that we have been given the long overdue history of the complex and complicated phenomenon of immigration.

### SUPPLEMENT TO AUERBACH GENEALOGY

Dr. S. M. Auerbach (London) has published the Fourth Supplement to his outstanding genealogical work about the descendants of Rabbi Abraham Auerbach (Perry Press Productions Ltd., London 1957). It covers the years 1966-1969, and lists 123 births (104 in Israel), 31 marriages and 23 deaths. In the introduction the author states that the number of descendants living in Israel now exceeds 900.

Including the progenitors, Abraham Auerbach (1763-1845), who was Rabbi for the Rhine-Moselle District in Koblenz and later in Bonn, and his wife, Ester Rebecca Oppenheim (1785-1846), the genealogy now covers eight generations. This is no mean achievement, especially in view of the wide dispersion of German-Jewish families since 1933. The work is not only of interest to the members of the large Auerbach family, but also important as a contribution to German-Jewish historiography in general. By his painstaking labours, Dr. Auerbach has rendered signal services, and it is gratifying that the latest supplement brings the work up to-date.

W.R.

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Norman Bentwich

## VISIT TO THE FRANKFURT GEMEINDE

I had been in Frankfurt every year, at least once, since the end of the Second World War. However, somehow I had not visited the institutions of the restored Jewish Gemeinde in that city of Western Germany which, after Berlin, has the largest Jewish population. That is officially estimated at 4,500, but the director of the Gemeinde told me it was in fact over 5,000.

This year, through the kindness of the director of the Gemeinde, Mr. Kornat, I was able to go on a round of the institutions, to see the day-school and kindergarten, the synagogues, the offices of the Frankfurt community, and also of the community of the Land Hesse, which is a corporation under public law; and finally, the old people's home in the building of the former Jewish hospital.

The kindergarten and the school are held in a block of buildings in Friedrich-Strasse which was till recent years the office of the headquarters of U.R.O., and which comprises also the main synagogue. The former Reform synagogue on that site was destroyed in the war and rebuilt by the municipality. The service in the new building is Orthodox as it is in the other Frankfurt synagogues. Members of the Reform and Liberal groups hold a service on the High Holy-days in a hired hall.

Rabbi Lichtigfeld, who was for years the spiritual leader of the whole community, by his enthusiasm was able to take the first steps in founding a kindergarten and "gymnasium", each with nearly 150 children. The two teachers in the "Gan" are young Israeli women who possess the dynamic quality of that generation. The children prattle in Hebrew as well as in German. In the same building is the centre for youth, which is directed by another Israeli engaged for a period of years, who also possesses the Israeli dynamism.

What is lacking is a hall for cultural gatherings, lectures on Jewish history, on Israel and the like. For this purpose the community has to hire a hall. It has now for three years conducted a monthly organ, the "Frankfurter Jüdisches Gemeindeblatt", which is largely devoted to these subjects, and to reviews of books on Jewish themes. The other contents of the "Gemeindeblatt" are notices of the religious services and of communal meetings. Every issue also contains birthday greetings on the anniversaries of the elders of the Gemeinde, and obituaries. The issue of February of this year announced a project of enlargement so as to extend the cultural elements and the correspondence of readers.

Frankfurt has again a Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, and its proceedings are regularly reported. The budget of the Gemeinde amounts to nearly a quarter of a million Marks, and the income is derived mainly from taxes.

It surprised me that a separate office is maintained for the Jewish congregations in the Land Hesse outside Frankfurt. There are a number of small communities in the famous spas of the region, Wiesbaden and Homburg, Bad Nauheim and Bad Nenndorf. These communities together form a Landesverband. Each has a synagogue and a cemetery, but no school except the religious class. The administration is conducted by a full-time director whose office is in Frankfurt.

Another building of the Frankfurt Gemeinde is on the site of the famous Philanthropin School, destroyed in the war. The site is now occupied by a building which accommodates many Jewish institutions, like Woburn House

in London. Opposite it is a home of the Gemeinde for disturbed families, adults and children, of which there are too many in Frankfurt. That is the outcome of the cruel conditions of the Hitler régime. I was introduced to a nurse, another Israeli, who looks after the inmates.

The final visit was to the old people's home in a suburb where some 150 dwell in quiet rural surroundings, though it is only a mile from the centre of the town. The doctors and the nurses are partly Jewish, and the old people are obviously well cared for, materially and religiously. They have their own synagogue and Chazan. Frankfurt Jewry practises fully the virtue of Gemilut Hasadim, and looks after the very young and the children of school age, the old and the sick, the religious and the lay institutions.

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

## TRADE UNION PROBLEMS IN ISRAEL

Israel's Federation of Trade Unions, the Histadruth, of which 60 per cent of the country's population and 90 per cent of all workers—among them 150,000 Arabs—are members, has entered a fighting phase under the leadership of its new Secretary-General, Mr. Jitzhak Ben-Aharon. This is all the more surprising as the Histadruth, sedate and matron-like, in the course of fifty years has become part and parcel of the "establishment"—a development which was inevitable as a result of its two-fold role as representative of the employees and, next to the State, as the country's biggest employer. It owns the "Kor" Industries (8,200 workers), the building company, "Solel Boneh" (22,000 workers), two nation-wide co-operatives, a bank, an insurance company, and is a partner in many other enterprises. No wonder that the workers no longer regarded the Histadruth as the representative of their interests, but treated it like a semi-official authority. When giving vent to their grievances, they did so against the advice or even the ruling of their union. No doubt, there was growing estrangement between the wage earners and the Histadruth.

Not so long ago, Secretary-General Becker was replaced by the 64-year-old Ben-Aharon. Ben-Aharon, born in Czernowitz, had, in the 'twenties, studied political science in Berlin. During the Second World War he was in charge of a Palestinian unit of the British Army and eventually captured in Greece. Twenty years ago he was elected a member of the Knesset, and in 1964 he joined the Cabinet as Minister of Transport. But in protest against the split in the Labour movement he resigned both from the Government and from Parliament and retired to his kibbutz, Givat Haim. There he worked quietly for a reunification of the Socialist front, and it is, no doubt, largely due to his efforts that the division was finally overcome.

When, as a gesture of gratitude, he was proposed for the post of Secretary-General of the Histadruth, it was clear that one had chosen a Socialist dogmatist who would do his utmost for the benefit of the working class, even if this meant the renewal of the class struggle. "The Histadruth must be an independent organisation and in no way part of the governmental machinery", he declared. Considering

that both in the "governmental machinery" and in the Histadruth there is the same ruling party—the Israel Labour Party—this declaration in itself was taken as a war cry. As a first step Ben-Aharon wanted to reshuffle the Histadruth's bureaucracy.

Strangely enough, there was among those he wanted to replace not a single member of his own original party, Achdut Avoda, and as the Central Committee of the Trade Unions is made up of representatives of the various factions, he was politely informed that their nominations to Histadruth posts could not be reversed by the Secretary-General. Moreover, the replacement of the trade union managers and professionals by idealistic amateurs at a time when specialisation counts more than good will would in no time have destroyed the highly complicated organisation. When he was to give a T.V. interview about his plans and heard that his adversaries on the Committee were also to appear, he shouted at the bewildered reporter and cancelled the telecast.

Even less orthodox was his intervention in the long-standing conflict between labour and management at the ports. For several years Israel's ports have been in the forefront of industrial unrest. Only last winter, the picking of citrus, Israel's biggest export article, had to be stopped because the ports were paralysed by strikes, although the average monthly wage of a docker, including incentive premiums and overtime pay, equal the salary of a top civil servant, about I£1,500. It is true that most of the labour stoppages in the harbours were carried out against the ruling of the Histadruth, which was losing ground among the port workers. Recently, Ben-Aharon reversed this trend and identified himself with the cause of the dockers. What is unique is the personal tinge which has been added to labour demands concerning wages, norms and grades. The Histadruth's Secretary-General came forward not only in favour of an improvement of the dockers' lot, but also demanded the dismissal of the director of the Ports Authority, Mr. Haim Laskow, a former chief-of-staff. He publicly denounced him as unfit for his job, and accused him of "lack of human approach" and of having a "slave-driver's mentality".

The effect in Israel's economic circles was that of a bomb exploding. Never before had the trade unions tried to dictate to the employers who was to represent them—regardless of whether the employer was the State or a private firm. The roof organisation of the private industrial sector warned that "such a development could have most dangerous consequences". The same misgivings were mirrored in the press. "A man who is driven by his political ambitions incites the workers and encourages their intransigence without taking heed of the national emergency", wrote the Tel Aviv daily, *Yedioth Hadashoth*. In his attempts to regain the confidence of the wage earners, so it was argued, Ben-Aharon uses the slogans and methods of the 'thirties, and the question is raised whether just now the time is propitious for reviving the class struggle. The evening paper, *Ma'ariv*, even believes that as a result of Ben-Aharon's fighting mood the productivity in many public enterprises has already decreased.

Whatever Ben-Aharon's merits or demerits, nobody denies that a personality of great energy and driving force is now at the helm of the country's largest organisation. Whether he will create social unrest or whether he will succeed in regaining the workers' confidence in the Histadruth—he is not the man to stop halfway. The fact that, in spite of all the opposition, he received, a vote of confidence of 104:27 in the Histadruth's Central Committee will only encourage him to go on challenging the "establishment".

## SIMON BISCHHEIM 85

Wer von uns, der Simon Bischheim mit grossen, festen Schritten hat daherschreiten sehen, würde glauben, dass er am 11. August seinen 85. Geburtstag begeht? In solchem Masse hat er sich seine körperliche Elastizität bewahrt, dass er alle paar Monate eine Reise, sei es nach Deutschland oder der Schweiz, sei es nach Israel oder Amerika unternimmt. Aber auch geistig ist er frisch und rege geblieben, aufgeschlossen für Kunst und Literatur, für Politik und Wirtschaft, immer bereit zu lernen und in grosszügiger Weise zu helfen.

Wenn man die Lebenserinnerungen liest, die Bischheim kürzlich für seine Familie und seine Freunde geschrieben hat, gewinnt man den Eindruck, dass er zu den charaktervollen Menschen zählt, die bei allem Wandel der äusseren Umstände im Wesen sich treu geblieben sind. Dieses Wesen ist eben die Treue. Er ist der Stadt treu geblieben, in der seine Vorfahren durch Generationen gewohnt haben, und in der er selbst geboren und aufgewachsen ist; er will nicht und kann nicht verleugnen, dass er ein echter Sohn Frankfurts ist. Treu ist er geblieben seiner Arbeit, die er früh mit emsigem Fleiss und kaufmännischem Weitblick in der Heimat begonnen und nach seiner Auswanderung mit erstaunlichem Erfolge hier fortgesetzt hat; noch heute vergeht kein Tag, der ihn nicht an der Stätte seiner langjährigen Wirksamkeit sieht. Dabei liegt dem bescheidenen Manne nichts ferner als sich seines Werkes zu rühmen. Er ist wie je das Haupt der Familie, die er mit einer geliebten, von Herzen gütigen Frau begründet hat; sie hat ihm das Haus zum Mittelpunkt edler Gastlichkeit

gemacht, und ihr Tod war der schwerste Schicksalsschlag, den er erlitten hat. Seinen Kindern ist er allezeit der treusorgende Vater geblieben. Von seiner Treue wissen seine Freunde zu sagen, wie weit in der Welt zerstreut sie auch leben.

Aus einem religiösen Elternhaus stammend, hat er seiner jüdischen Gemeinschaft stets die Loyalität gewahrt. Er hängt noch heute in Dankbarkeit am Philanthropin, der jüdischen Schule, durch die er gegangen ist, und ist eines der eifrigsten Mitglieder des hiesigen Komitees, das seit Jahren Material für eine neuere Geschichte der Frankfurter Juden von überallher sammelt. Er betätigt sein Judentum auch im religiösen Sinn und sucht die Synagoge nicht nur an Feiertagen, sondern auch am Sabbat auf. Kein Wunder, dass er sich mit Rat und Tat der Association of Jewish Refugees zur Verfügung gestellt hat und ein zuverlässiger Bruder der alten Leo Baeck-Lodge ist. Dass er der "holden Kunst" der Musik von ganzer Seele ergeben ist wie schon in jungen Jahren, versteht sich von selbst; noch heute betätigt er sich als erfahrener Violinist im Kreise musikalischer Freunde.

Seine vielfach bewährte Treue ist ihm gelohnt worden. Seine Söhne haben, angeeifert durch sein Beispiel, sein Werk in seinem Sinne ausgebaut, seine Tochter, ihm auch räumlich nahe, lässt ihm die liebevollste Fürsorge angedeihen, Enkelkinder sehen zu ihm auf, und zahlreiche Freunde, die er sich erworben, fühlen sich ihm in tiefer Zuneigung und Dankbarkeit verbunden. Und so wünschen alle, die den Vorzug haben, Simon Bischheim

nahe zu kennen, von Herzen, dass es ihm vergönnt sei, noch Jahre mit so festen Schritten weiter zu schreiten, mechajil el chojil, von Kraft zu immer neuer Kraft.

DR. G. SALZBERGER.

Mr. Bischheim gehört seit vielen Jahren der Exekutive der AJR an. Sein 85. Geburtstag bietet eine willkommene Gelegenheit, ihm für seine wertvolle Mitarbeit zu danken. Seine Kollegen in der Exekutive schliessen sich den guten Wünschen, denen Rabbiner Dr. Salzberger Ausdruck gegeben hat, in freundschaftlicher Verbundenheit an.

### PILGRIMAGE TO BELSEN 25th Anniversary of Liberation

On July 1 Belsen survivors of many countries assembled on the site of the former concentration camp to pay homage to the martyrs and to recall the day of liberation twenty-five years ago. A pilgrimage, sponsored by the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations, brought together hundreds of former camp inmates from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Israel, West Germany, France and other European countries. They were joined by a number of others, including Brigadier-General H. L. Glyn Hughes; Elie Wiesel; Manes Sperber; Dr. George Steiner; Dr. Gerhard Riegner and Dr. S. J. Roth, representing the World Jewish Congress; J.T.A. European Editor, S. J. Goldsmith; and Jewish Chronicle Editor, William Frankel. Among the survivors were the president and vice-president of the World Federation, Josef Rosensaft and Norbert Wollheim.

Rabbi Dr. Zvi Azaria, the Landesrabbiner of Lower Saxony, recited a chapter of the Psalms, and the Cantor, Moshe Kraus, of Johannesburg, recited the El Mole Rachamim. —(J.T.A.)



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# IN MEMORIAM

## MR. O. L. EINSTEIN

After a long illness, Mr. Oscar Leopold Einstein died peacefully in his 73rd year on July 8. The AJR, the Morris Feinmann Homes Trust and the whole Manchester refugee community lost in him one of its leaders and a most understanding friend.

Oscar Einstein was born in Stuttgart, where he went to school. He was a remarkable scholar and gained the first prize every year. Circumstances created by the First World War prevented him from entering university, and as he had to earn his living he joined the textile industry. At the age of about thirty he was made managing director of an important textile firm in Chemnitz, a post he held until he was forced to emigrate in 1937. He went to Manchester, where he continued working in textiles, establishing eventually his own company.

Oscar Einstein served in both World Wars: from 1916-18 in the German infantry, and during the Second World War as an ambulance driver in Britain. He had the rare distinction of being decorated for his services by both countries.

Oscar Einstein was actively associated with the cause of Jewish refugees since his arrival in Manchester. He took an active part in the formation of the AJR Manchester group, of which he became Chairman. He was also one of five founder members of the Morris Feinmann Home in 1947, a Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee and a Trustee of the Morris Feinmann Homes Trust. He represented

the AJR and the Morris Feinmann Homes Trust on the Council of Manchester and Salford Jews and several other organisations.

Oscar Einstein, who leaves a widow, two sons and one daughter-in-law, was a devoted family man, dedicated to the ideas in which he believed, a most generous and modest man, full of compassion for people in need. He made many friends, and proved to be a most loyal friend. His scholarly interests did not end with his schooling, nor were they suppressed by his business activities. He was a regular participant in the Extra-Mural Department of Manchester University, with a keen interest in astronomy and philosophy.

His many friends and the Morris Feinmann Home will always cherish the memory of a good and friendly man.

F.H.K.

## DR. CECIL ROTH

Dr. Cecil Roth, who died in Jerusalem on June 21 at the age of 71, was Anglo-Jewry's major historian. A Londoner by birth, he was for 26 years reader in post-Biblical studies at Oxford. In 1964 he left England to become Professor of Jewish history at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. In recent years he was also chief editor of the Encyclopaedia Judaica, the new monumental work now under preparation. A prolific writer, his works include a number of standard works such as "A short History of the Jewish People", a "History of the Jews in England", "A History of Marranos", and "The Jewish Contrib-

ution to Civilisation". Dr. Roth repeatedly held the office of President of the Jewish Historical Society of England. He was also in 1932, a co-founder of the Jewish Museum in London. When the 21st Anniversary of the AJR in 1962 was marked by a special anniversary issue, Dr. Roth contributed an article in which he assessed the position of the immigrants from Nazi Europe within the framework of Anglo-Jewry.

## DR. HERBERT FOERDER

Dr. Yeshayahu Herbert Foerder has died in Tel Aviv at the age of 69. A leading Zionist in pre-Nazi Germany he went to Palestine in 1933. As founder of Rasco (an organisation which sponsored and financed middle-class housing) he served as General Manager until 1957. From 1957 to the end of his life he was Chairman and Chief Executive of Bank Leumi le-Israel. Dr. Foerder was a member of the Progressive Party and a member of the Knesset from 1949 to 1957. He was also one of the founder members of the organisation of Immigrants from Germany, the Hitachduth Oley Germania, and a Vice-President of the representative body of the Jews from Central Europe, the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa.

## DR. S. A. MILLER

Dr. S. A. Miller, Chairman of the Zionist Federation, died on July 7. Born in Leeds 58 years ago, he was a chemical consultant by profession. Dr. Miller was also Vice-President of Poale Zion, Vice-Chairman of the World Jewish Congress British Section, and a member of the World Executive of the W.J.C.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 18th of the month.

### Birth

**Lichtenstern.**—Jacqueline, daughter of Sita and David Lichtenstern, first grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lichtenstern and grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Kashyap (Israel) was born on June 28.

### Birthdays

**Levy.**—Dr. Hugo Levy, (formerly Hamburg) will celebrate his 95th birthday on August 11th.

**Marchand.**—Mrs. Irene Marchand of 54 Carnarvon Street, Glasgow, C3, celebrated her 80th birthday at the Central Hotel, Glasgow on July 12th. The Society of Jewish Refugees in Glasgow (the AJR's Scottish Branch) and the M.R.A.S. are happy to count Mrs. Marchand as one of their most loyal members and supporters. We all wish her many more years of health and happiness.

**Mehl-Fabian.**—Mrs. Fridl Mehl-Fabian of Queens Hotel, Eastcliff, Bournemouth, Hants., celebrated her 75th birthday on July 4.

**Schweig.**—Dr. Bruno Schweig of 18 West Heath Drive, London, N.W.11, formerly from Weisswasser (Oberlausitz) and Berlin, will celebrate his 80th birthday on August 19. The AJR, of which he has been an interested and helpful member for many years, joins his family and his numerous friends in expressing to Dr. Schweig its heartiest congratulations.

**Stern.**—Mr. Richard Stern of 65 Compayne Gardens, London, N.W.6, will celebrate his 70th birthday on August 4.

### Deaths

**Essinger.**—Mrs. Henriette Essinger of Sunridge Court, The Ridgeway, London, N.W.11, passed away on July 12 aged 76. Deeply mourned by Will and the family.

**Leiserowitz.**—Mr. Samuel Leiserowitz passed away suddenly on July 1, aged 74. Deeply mourned by his wife, Ania, his daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Geoffrey Lewis (Washington, D.C.), grandchildren, David and Gillian (Shapiro) (Rochester, New York), and great-grandchildren, Lisa and Robert.

**Liebmann.**—Mr. Max Liebmann of 14 Luxborough House, Luxborough Street, London, W.1 passed away peacefully on June 6th, in his 90th year. Sadly missed by his wife Else, his children, his son-in-law and his daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

**Melyon.**—Mrs. Hilda Melyon of 66 Hamilton Park West, London, N.5, passed away after a short illness on June 30. Sadly missed by her cousin, Carl Franz Flesch, his wife and children, and her many friends.

**Ney.**—Richard Ney, M.D. (formerly Stuttgart), died suddenly on June 28, in Gowanda, New York, at the age of 73. Deeply mourned by his widow, Annie Ney (née Liebmann), 184 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York, U.S.A., and son, Robert G. Ney, M.D., with family. Also by his brothers, Otto Ney, 63 Cole Valley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28, Arthur Ney, 44 Sandilands, Croydon, Surrey, and his sister, Miss Elizabeth Ney, 14 Cromwell Close, East End Road, London, N.2.

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# FRIENDSHIP AND LOYALTY

## International K.C. Meeting in London

During the first weekend of July the Eighth International K. C. Meeting was held in London. It was attended by numerous members from London and the Provinces, as well as by a great number of "Kartellbrueder" from other countries, including the United States, Israel and South Africa.

The opening function was a Sabbath Morning service in the New Liberal Congregation, at which Rabbi J. J. Kokotek, in his sermon, spoke about "Unser Erbe der juedischen Kultur", and which included a Memorial Service for the deceased members of the Fraternity. At the Dinner, held in the evening of the same day, the main speaker was Sir Ludwig Guttman, and on the following morning Dr. Walter Schindler spoke about "Der K. C. von Heute". All guests were presented with a volume of lyrical poems by Hans Jacobi, some of which impressively reflect experiences which many in our midst have endured.

Of course, the main object of such a reunion is the re-establishment of the personal contacts between friends, now spread all over the world. It became evident that the links which were forged during the formative student years could not only be preserved but were even strengthened by the upheavals of the past decades.

Yet a gathering of former adherents to a movement is more than a private and personal affair. Therefore, the question of whether the K.C. ideology of the pre-1933 years was a right conception or an historical error has kept on occupying the minds of the members. With the lapse of time, the immediate reaction of undue self-reproach from within and widespread cheap criticism from without has given way to a more unbiased and detached assessment. Jewish self-respect and self-confidence and the fight for equal rights, Sir Ludwig Guttman said, are basic ideas which have retained their topicality, and the history of the K.C. has become part and parcel of the history of German Jewry. The adoption by the K.C. of some of the German students' customs was to be explained by the circumstances of the time. They were not approved of everywhere, but, speaking for himself, Sir Ludwig added that it was his experience as a fencing instructor in the K.C. which had prompted him to introduce this sport in the rehabilitation work for paraplegics.

The ideological theme was elaborated on by the impressive lecture given by Dr. Schindler, which was based on comprehensive historical and psychological studies. Dealing with the different approaches of the Zionist K.J.V. and the non-Zionist K.C., he maintained that for the German Zionists of the University years the driving force was the romantic dream of the re-establishment of the Jewish homeland, whereas the starting point of the K.C. was the idea of the equality of men. The problem of the integration of Jews into their environment, Dr. Schindler stated, was not a specific problem of German Jewry. It is a supra-national problem with which Jews in the Diaspora are also faced today. At the same time, it is realised that the existence of the State of Israel is of vital importance, not only for those Jews who live in that country, but also for Jews in the Diaspora. This recognition of Israel's position in Jewish life is symbolised by the decision of the Board to commemorate the Fellow-K.C.ers who became victims of the holocaust by planting a forest in their memory in Israel.

W.R.

### BOLSHOI BOYCOTT IN MELBOURNE

When she arrived in Melbourne with the Moscow Bolshoi Ballet, Maya Plisetskaya, the prima ballerina, expressed no concern at the plans of the Jewish community to boycott performances. She was one of the 52 Soviet Jews from all walks of life who signed a Moscow statement in March condemning "Zionist aggression in the Middle East". Because of this and because of the religious, cultural and educational restrictions met by Soviet Jews, the Victoria Board of Deputies appealed to Jewish theatregoers to boycott the ballet. Leaflets were distributed outside the theatre before each performance by Jewish student members of the Hillel Foundation.

### COJO ATTACK ON GOLDMANN

The two-day meeting of the Conference of Jewish Organisations was highlighted by an attack by Dr. William Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, on recent political forays by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the president of the World Jewish Congress, who was in the chair. W.J.C. officials maintained that Dr. Wexler's purpose was to "get after" Dr. Goldmann and the W.J.C., both of which he is alleged to see as obstacles to his aim of extending the influence of the B'nai B'rith International Council.

### 'THANK-YOU BRITAIN' FUND LECTURE

A large audience, including a number of distinguished personalities and many contributors to the Fund, attended the Fifth Annual Lecture of the 'Thank-You Britain' Fund, held at the British Academy on June 24.

Sir Kenneth Wheare, C.M.G., President of the British Academy was in the chair, and in his opening address recalled the origin of the Fund which had been raised as an expression of collective gratitude by former refugees.

The speaker was Sir William Armstrong, G.C.B., M.V.O., who is Head of the Civil Service and Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department. His subject, "The Role and Character of H.M. Civil Service" turned out to be particularly topical because the time co-incided with the appointment of a new government following the general election. Whereas, however, in some countries, e.g. in the United States, any change of government results in dismissals and new appointments in the higher ranks of the civil service, in this country the speaker stated, the permanency of the civil service is one of the basic principles of public administration. Civil servants are not supposed to take sides. Their tasks consist in briefing the members of the government and providing them with the facts on which the decisions of the ministers have to be based. This division of duties between the policy making ministers and the non-political civil servants has proved to be most effective.

There are, however, changes in the composition of the civil service. Some of them arise from the emergence of nationalised industries. The speaker was in favour of enlisting the co-operation of business men and other experts. In the selection of civil servants, a balance between the specialists and the administrative "generalists" has to be aimed at. Sometimes specialists are reluctant to accept promotion to higher managerial positions because they do not want to lose contact with the special work in which they are interested. They should be given the choice of remaining in their positions without forfeiting the benefits arising from promotion to the administrative tier. The speaker also pointed out that the class structure of the civil service had changed considerably in the course of the past decades.

The full text of this most interesting lecture will be printed and made available to the contributors to the 'Thank-You Britain' Fund in due course.

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# ISRAELI NEWS

## BETTER RELATIONS WITH U.K. ?

Political circles in Israel consider Britain's election result as a cause of some satisfaction, strengthening hopes for an improvement in relations between Jerusalem and London. It is assumed that the Conservative Government will be more willing to sell British arms to Israel, and that the new Government will show a more determined opposition to Soviet intervention in the Middle East.

Cairo radio's observation on the outcome of the General Election in Britain was that the Labour Party adopted a hesitant attitude submissive to U.S. whims. "Those who think the Conservative election victory will change Britain's attitude to Israel—except for minor non-essential differences in tactics and methods and not in strategy and objectives—are mistaken."

## A FLOOD OF TOURISTS

The number of tourists visiting Israel increased by 11 per cent during the first five months of this year compared with the same period of 1969, with 157,000 visitors up to the end of May.

Jews, Christian pilgrims and students continue to make up most of Israel's visitors, and not persons coming on holiday. The Government Tourist Corporation has therefore drawn up plans to increase the country's tourist attractions, and attract investors for the establishment of restaurants, hotels and other tourist facilities.

## BEDUIN VOLUNTEERS

Since the establishment of the State in May, 1948, there has been a steady flow of volunteers from among Israel's 10,000 northern Beduin, with a steep rise in the number for the Israel Defence Forces. Under the law, the Beduin are exempt from compulsory military service, but there are already hundreds in the Army and the border police. Some have become officers, one reaching the rank of major, and, with the exception of one, all have proved loyal and reliable.

The authorities have speeded up development work in the Beduin settlements in Galilee, in recognition of their services.

## NO CONCESSIONS TO LIBERAL AND REFORM

Opposition to any concessions to Liberal and Reform Judaism has been reiterated in a statement by Israel's Chief Rabbinate Council. The Government was urged to request the Knesset to amend Israeli law so that conversions to Judaism would be recognised only if carried out according to the halacha. The NRP parliamentary party resolved that it must leave the Government if the law is not amended at least to apply to non-Orthodox conversions carried out in Israel.

The NRP has acknowledged as Jews persons converted by Liberal and Reform rabbis abroad, but the Chief Rabbinate stated explicitly that any conversion carried out either in Israel or abroad not in accordance with the halacha is not a conversion.

## SHARES FOR GERMAN INVESTORS

The recently formed giant Israel Corporation, which holds half the shares of the Zim shipping company and is ready to acquire a 26 per cent interest in Israel's oil refineries, reported that it could raise only £5 million in cash and a promise of £415,000 from Baron Edmond de Rothschild towards the £14½ million investment it required. Jewish capital failed to respond and the Corporation opened negotiations with an anonymous non-Jewish German group willing to invest on condition that it acquires an interest of more than 20 per cent. It is reported the agreement has been already initialled.

Israel's Finance Minister, Mr. Pinhas Sapir, had to intervene to overcome the opposition of a group of senior Treasury officials to this deal, which gives German investors an influential place in Israel's shipping and oil industries.

## BIRTHRATE UP

The birthrate among Jews in Israel has gone up 9 per cent in the past three years. The increase is believed to be due to the ending of the policy of economic slow-down, increased awareness of Israel's population needs, and the fact that the generation born after the creation of the State has arrived at marriageable age. Due to the ageing of the population, there was a similar increase in the mortality rate.

## UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR DR. KEMPNER

Dr. Robert M. W. Kempner, former U.S. Deputy Chief of Counsel at the Nuremberg War Trials, was made an Honorary Fellow of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in recognition of his fight for justice, especially by his leading part in the prosecution of Nazi war criminals. The document was handed over to Dr. Kempner at a ceremony in Berlin by the Israeli philosopher of religion, Professor R. Zvi Werblowski who was on a visit to that city on the occasion of a philosophical congress.

## FROM HEBREW TO WELSH

Mr. Yosef Ori, of Netiv Hashayara village in Western Galilee, has signed an agreement with the Council for Welsh books for the translation of "Two Ears of Corn and a Sword", his book about the personal experiences of a member of the Palmach, the Hagana's striking force. According to the author, this will be the first Hebrew translation into Welsh.

The council chose Mr. Ori's book because it contains the excitement and glamour likely to attract young readers, deciding on a Hebrew book because Hebrew is an ancient language that has been revived in modern times, as is aimed for Welsh.

## DRUG ADDICTION

Mr. Shlomo Hillel, the Police Minister, told the Knesset that drug addiction is spreading in Israel to the younger age groups and the higher social groups. While most people who took drugs did so "mainly for sport," he warned that there was a danger of addiction changing Israel into a Levantine society which would ignore the country's problems instead of facing up to them and working to overcome them.

He reported that there had been a sharp rise in drug offences from 555 in 1967 to 1,053 in 1969. There had been slightly fewer juvenile delinquents last year, but the number of offences they had committed was slightly more.

## INCREASE IN PROSTITUTION

According to Jerusalem's Deputy Mayor, Rabbi Menachem Porush, more than 200 girls aged between 11 and 15 are working as prostitutes in the city today, compared with 80 to 90 in 1968. A public committee has agreed to supply funds for three extra social workers to tackle this problem.

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