

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

W. Breslauer

TOWARDS THE END OF INDEMNIFICATION  
AND RESTITUTION PROCEEDINGS

This article is based on the half-yearly statistics which the Länder of the Federal Republic submit to the Federal authorities. Copies of these reports are also sent to the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany which in turn brings them to the notice of its affiliates, including the Council of Jews from Germany. The reports are analysed and commented on by the Director of the Claims Conference, Dr. Ernst Katzenstein, and serve as the basis of his indefatigable work directed not only to legislative developments, but also to the proper administrative handling of the claims. Throughout the years, the Council of Jews from Germany has rendered its assistance in this work by applications and correspondence, in former years also by its representatives' journeys to Bonn and to the authorities of the various Länder, as set out in detail for the period until 1967 in the printed report on "Die Arbeit des Council of Jews from Germany auf dem Gebiet der Wiedergutmachung" rendered by the late Dr. F. Goldschmidt and the present writer. The work has also been carried out in constant co-operation with the United Restitution Organisation which handles the individual claims and which was established at the initiative of the Council.

As now 25 years have passed since the legislation in the field of restitution and compensation started, it seems appropriate to report on the present position as revealed in the statistics. The first laws which regulated the restitution of identifiable property were promulgated by the Allied Governments, and as they were directed against individual "aryanisers" of property of the persecutees, they need not be considered in the context of this article. A few years later the German Länder and the Federal Republic began to regulate indemnification claims on account of the various measures of Nazi persecution. According to the latest statistics covering the time until December 31, 1972, approximately 98% of those claims which were submitted by persecutees outside Germany have been finalised in all Länder with the exception of Rheinland-Pfalz, to which reference will be made later. There is even one Land, albeit the smallest one, i.e. Bremen, where at the end of last year not a single application by claimants resident outside the Federal Republic was still pending (there were still three claims of people resident in Bremen).

The number of claims submitted from the beginning of the indemnification legislation until the end of 1972 amounted to about 4½ million; of course, the number of claimants is lower because frequently one claimant had

several claims under different headings. Of these claims about 74,500 have not yet been settled.

According to latest statistics the number of claims still pending when the Entschädigungsschlussgesetz was promulgated on September 18, 1965, and lodged after 1965 amounted to 1,140,000, of which 885,000 were submitted by persons living abroad. As already stated, 74,500 cases were still unsettled at the end of 1972; of these 63,000 referred to claims from abroad. In all Länder, with the exception of Rheinland-Pfalz, on the average only 2% of the foreign claims were still pending. In Rheinland-Pfalz, however, the percentage of unsettled foreign cases amounts to 19%. This fact has its very good reasons. A great number of the claimants were persecutees who had formerly not lived in the present territory of the Federal Republic (including West Berlin) but in the present German Democratic Republic, or in those parts of former Germany now in the hands of other countries, or in foreign countries which were occupied by the Nazis. It was necessary to determine which Länder should deal with these claims. It was arranged that claims of persons formerly resident in the present territory of the GDR were to be handled by the indemnification office at Hildesheim, situated in the Land Niedersachsen, and the claims of former residents of the lost or occupied territories by the Land Nordrhein-Westfalen, if the claimants now live in Europe, and by the Land Rheinland-Pfalz, if they now live outside Europe. This regulation was not damaging in the first two instances, Niedersachsen and Nordrhein-Westfalen, as the big apparatus of the indemnification offices in these Länder could take the work in its stride. Yet the Land Rheinland-Pfalz, where the number of indigenous persecutees was not large and where resources were limited, has increasingly been unable to cope with its work, to the great detriment of this group of claimants which includes residents especially in the United States, South America and Israel. Some years ago, a branch office of the indemnification authority Rheinland-Pfalz was established in Berlin where the authorities could spare the necessary number of case workers. Nevertheless, the backlog of claims to be finished by the Rheinland-Pfalz authorities has remained the most conspicuous weak spot of the whole organisation.

The statistics reveal that the percentage of rejected cases was considerably higher among claims by residents of the Federal Republic than among claims from abroad. Whilst the percentage of acknowledged inland claims

was on the whole about 51% and in the last half year 39%, the percentage of acknowledged claims from abroad was 62½% and in the past half year still 58%. In the view of this writer the reasons for this phenomenon are the following ones: On the one hand, generally claimants resident in Germany seem to have been more inclined to put forward questionable claims. On the other hand, the officials of the indemnification offices, including those who are still comparatively young and cannot judge the Nazi era from first-hand experience, seem to be quite conversant with the fact that all Jews were persecuted in every possible way. They appear to be less inclined to accept that there were also quite a number of others, political opponents of the Nazi régime or people who simply could not stomach its excesses, who were persecuted and are now liable to claim for the damage they have suffered.

It is also interesting to note from the statistics to what extent the various groups of indemnification claims from abroad were acknowledged and rejected. The final figures of claims settled after 1965, for instance, reveal that of claims made for damage to professional income about 139,000 were acknowledged and 42,000 rejected. In cases covering damage to property, including special levies such as Judenabgabe and Reichsfluchtsteuer, the relationship of acknowledged to rejected claims is 45,000 to 44,000. This may, to some extent, be due to the fact that quite a few claims of this kind were settled under the Federal Restitution Law. In the case of claims for deprivation of liberty the figures are 38,000 to 27,000, and in the case of damage to life and health 89,000 to 77,000.

The relationship between the various groups of claims is, however, very different when the actual payments made are compared. At the time of the promulgation of the first indemnification laws it was estimated that the whole amount needed to settle these claims would be between six and eight thousand million D. Marks. The figures of the statistics now show that the indemnification cases alone (from claimants within Germany and abroad) already amounted to 33,500 million D. Marks; to these have to be added another 3,500 million D. Marks for payments under the Federal Restitution Law and 8,000 million D. Marks paid under other headings, such as claims under special arrangements with the State of Israel and indemnification claims under the special law for the indemnification of persecuted officials of the Reich, the Länder and communities, including Jewish communities. It is estimated that a further 8,000 million D. Marks will have to be paid under the various laws until 1975. The sums still to be paid after 1975 (mainly annuities and pensions) are estimated at 25,000 million D. Marks.

The statistics also include details about the capital payments and annuities to claimants abroad under the Federal Indemnification Law. The capital payments for damage to

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professional earnings amount to approximately 2,700 million D. Marks, and capital payments for damage to life or health altogether approximately also to this amount. Payments for damage to liberty amount to approximately 2,500 million D. Marks, and for damage to property to about 900 million D. Marks. As far as current annuities paid to claimants abroad are concerned, they have so far amounted to 10,700 million D. Marks for damage to life and health, whereas annuities for loss of professional income amounted to only 5,400 million D. Marks, i.e. half of that amount. It is estimated for the future that the relationship between the various types of annuities will remain the same.

As has been seen, this article refers almost exclusively to the claims made by claimants abroad under the indemnification laws. It does not include details of the claims under the Federal Restitution Law but it can be stated that they too have now been finalised in their great majority. Nor does it refer to the claims of former officials and various other claims dealt with under different legislation, such as social security, Lastenausgleich and claims against special separate funds. It should also be mentioned that the whole great work of restitution and indemnification in the Federal Republic of Germany, of course, also has quite a few loopholes. Now, after nearly 25 years, it is in many cases impossible to do anything about this and to help those who have been insufficiently cared for.

The Claims Conference endeavours, however, to take up some groups of cases which, they believe, could still be assisted, for instance the claims of those persecutees who came out of the countries behind the Iron Curtain after 1965 and who have no claims under the present legislation. It remains to be seen whether these endeavours will be successful. It also remains to be seen whether Chancellor Brandt's East-West policy will have any consequences of importance in the field of indemnification and restitution. So far, most of the Communist countries, especially the GDR, have refused to make any payments to residents of Western countries. Furthermore, Federal legislation also excludes payments to residents of countries with which the Federal Republic has no diplomatic relations.

In the field of indemnification people living in Germany and in the Western countries are, as our readers know, cared for by Federal legislation regardless of where their former residence was. This, however, is not the case in restitution matters.

Lastly, it has been repeatedly reported that on the basis of the decision of the Federal Constitution Court of December 1969, there is, in certain cases, the possibility of starting new proceedings in cases previously dealt with. Greatly exaggerated hopes have been expressed in this respect in Jewish papers. It is, of course, the right and duty of persecutees to examine whether they can make renewed claims under this new case law. However, a detailed examination will probably show in most cases that this will not be possible. The time limit for some specific categories of these new claims has not yet expired, but it is significant that so far less than 1,000 of these claims have been submitted to the large indemnification office in Berlin (information of middle of May, 1973). It is by no means certain that even of these claims already submitted the greater part will be acknowledged.

## FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

### BRANDT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

Chancellor Brandt's visit to Israel received wide coverage in Germany, Israel and other countries. Apart from a few, unimpressive protests, there were no signs of resentment in Israel, and the welcome accorded him by Mrs. Meir and other Israeli leaders was particularly cordial. The Chancellor reiterated the attitude of the Federal German Republic to Israel: Bonn seeks normal diplomatic relations with any country which wants them but these ties "cannot come at the expense of West German relations with the State of Israel." Mrs. Meir has accepted an invitation by Chancellor Brandt to pay a return visit to Germany. Shortly before he left Israel, a ceremony was held at the Weizmann Institute at which Brandt was awarded an honorary doctorate of the Institute. In his reply to the address by Foreign Minister Abba Eban and to the laudatio of Professor Sharon the Chancellor said: "I consider the award as an expression of confidence in the political leadership of the Federal Republic and I cherish this confidence as the main gift presented to me on the occasion of my visit. I measure it in relation to the Monument outside this auditorium which commemorates the victims of the Inferno."

### EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Alderman Sir Samuel Fisher, senior vice-president of the Board of Deputies, during an address in Westcliff called for closer and more frequent co-operation between the Anglo-Jewish community and representative Jewish organisations in Europe.

Pointing out that apparently the communities in some countries in Europe are not as well organised as we are in Britain, he said it would be our duty and responsibility to assist and encourage them in any necessary reorganisation. Approaches and efforts towards such co-operation should be started early in the life of the Board of Deputies' new triennial session. As a cohesive force the board could emerge as a great power in the improvement of Jewish life, and would undoubtedly play its part in this field with other Jewish organisations, both national and international.

### CELLE SYNAGOGUE TO BECOME MUSEUM

The oldest preserved synagogue in North-West Germany, which is located in Celle and dates back to about 1600, is to be converted into a museum for Jewish ritual art. It will also serve as a house of prayer for visitors of the near-by site of the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The building, which escaped destruction during the November, 1938, pogroms, was bought by the city of Celle in 1971. The repair costs are estimated at about DM 200,000 and will be borne by the municipality as well as by voluntary donations from Christian congregations.

### WAR CRIMINALS

#### Himmler Aide

Inquiries into the wartime role of Horst Bender, a Stuttgart lawyer who was the legal adviser to Heinrich Himmler, the S.S. chief, have been opened by the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes at Ludwigsburg.

Bender recently admitted advising Himmler in 1942 that the murder of Jews "for political reasons" should not be punished; only their murder "on sadistic or sexual grounds" should be punished.

#### Trials

The trial in Düsseldorf of Albert Ganzenmueller, a former State secretary in the Nazi Transport Ministry, was adjourned after he suffered a severe heart attack. Ganzenmueller is accused of organising the deportation of many thousands of European Jews to concentration camps, where they perished.

Werner Best, who was charged with responsibility for the murder of 8,723 Poles, mostly Jews, during 1939 and 1940, was freed from pre-trial custody last August on medical grounds.

#### Hahn Convicted

A Hamburg court has sentenced Dr. Ludwig Hahn to 12 years' imprisonment. The prosecution had demanded 47 times life imprisonment for Hahn, who was the Nazi security chief in Warsaw. Schiller University in Jena (G.D.R.) has annulled Hahn's doctor's degree.

#### 5,600 Still Suspected

Trials of Nazi war criminals will not end in West Germany before 1980 predicted Dr. Diether Posser, North Rhine-Westphalia's Minister of Justice. Inquiries into the activities of 5,600 suspected Nazis were continuing in West Germany, said Dr. Posser, pointing out that 2,700 of these were living in North Rhine Westphalia. Procedures should be speeded up to bring cases to trial, he said, because the average age of the suspects was now 65 years and because witnesses were fast forgetting the events of the war years.

#### MUNICH COMMUNITY PRESIDENT 60

Dr. Hans Lamm, President of the Munich Jewish community, who is also well known as an author and publicist, recently celebrated his 60th birthday.

#### GUEST LECTURER

The sociologist, Dr. Norbert Elias, until his retirement in 1964 professor at Leicester University, has been invited to give lectures at the Free University of Berlin.

#### AUSTRIAN STAMP IN MEMORY OF NOBEL PRIZE-WINNER

The Austrian postal authorities issued a special stamp in memory of the Nobel Prize winner, Professor Otto Loewi, who was born 100 years ago on June 3 in Frankfurt/Main. Otto Loewi was professor of pharmacology at Graz University from 1909 until he was arrested and expelled by the Nazis in 1939. He died in New York in 1961.

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## HOME NEWS

### ALARM AT NF POLL

Alarm was expressed by politicians and Jewish defence organisations at the votes cast in the recent West Bromwich parliamentary by-election, when the racist National Front picked up 16 per cent of the total poll. The NF parliamentary candidate, Mr. Martin Webster, polled 4,789 votes as against 15,907 for Labour and 7,582 for the Conservatives. Mr. Webster campaigned on a policy of halting all coloured immigration and of repatriating all coloured people now living in Britain.

Mr. Victor Mishcon, chairman of the Board of Deputies' Jewish defence and group relations committee, stated that the vote shows a danger signal which should be heeded by the majority parties and recognised as a threat to democracy and harmonious relationships between citizens of this country. Whilst this particular campaign had no overtly anti-semitic overtones, he said, the Board of Deputies realised that the Right-wing racist parties constitute a threat to all good race relations and religious tolerance. The pro-Nazi origins of the leadership of the NF could not be forgotten.

### ANTISEMITISM AMONG STUDENTS

Addressing the Bournemouth branch of the Council of Christians and Jews, Mrs. Joan Lawrence, publications officer of the council, spoke of the "alarming growth of virulent antisemitic filth being printed in the rag week magazines by student bodies of several universities". This growing anti-Jewish prejudice among many student bodies emphasised the vital need for educational work among the young that the CCJ was carrying out, albeit with limited funds, severely restricted through a complacent lack of support by the Jewish community.

### PROTESTS AT BALLET PERFORMANCES

The "Manchester '73" festival, which included visits by the Kirov Ballet of Russia, the deputy chairman of Leningrad (Manchester's "twin" town), Mr. Evgieny Gogolev, and a Leningrad judge, was made the occasion for a sustained campaign on behalf of persecuted Jews in the Soviet Union.

Representatives of Manchester's Jewish community met Mr. Gogolev to protest at the dismissal from the Kirov Ballet of Valery and Galina Panov, who had applied for visas to emigrate to Israel. A statement issued after the meeting, which was said to have been conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality, disclosed that Mr. Gogolev told the delegation that Valery Panov had found himself in his present situation "because of his lack of good behaviour and repeated attempts to change his nationality". Mr. Gogolev spoke of the valuable contributions made by the Jews of Leningrad. The Jewish delegation stated that they were in contact with many Jews in Leningrad who were suffering extreme deprivation because of their desire to emigrate to Israel.

There were also protests against the persecution of Jews in Russia on the occasion of the first London performance of the Georgian State Dance Company at the Coliseum. Before the show opened, a hunting horn was sounded from one of the boxes and six members of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry (the 35s) rushed on to the stage with open black umbrellas bearing the words "U.S.S.R. Free The Jews". There were also interruptions during the performance. In the view of many sympathisers with the cause, the action was counter-productive.

### BIRTHDAY HONOURS

In the Queen's birthday honours list Mr. Rudolf Schwarz, principal conductor of the Northern Symphony Orchestra, was made a C.B.E. Born in Vienna, Mr. Schwarz was conductor of the orchestra of the Berlin Jewish Kulturbund from 1936 until the Kulturbund was dissolved by Nazi decree in 1941. The list of the new O.B.E.s includes Mr. Herbert Loebel, of Newcastle upon Tyne, a long-standing member of the AJR, for services to export.

The C.B.E. was also awarded to Mr Pierre Gildesgame, president of Maccabi Association; Mr. Louis Klein (Sydney), president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry; and Mr. Ernest Wistrich, director, British Council of the European Movement.

Among the newly appointed M.B.E.s is the Rev. Dr. Barnett Joseph, minister of the Hackney Synagogue for services as hospital and prison chaplain. Miss Charlotte Skibben, a founder member and secretary of the Leeds Blind Society for nearly 27 years since she lost her eyesight, who has worked as a telephonist in the Department of Employment, received the B.E.M.

### PRaise FROM MRS. THATCHER

Speaking as guest of honour at a dinner in Hampstead Garden Suburb to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Kerem schools, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, praised Anglo-Jewry's network of independent day schools. She said it was extremely good for the State to have a rival system as a safeguard against a monopoly in education.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The annual meeting of the Central Council for Jewish Religious Education was told that if more attention is not paid to religious education in the provinces, the future of Jewish religion could be at stake. The provinces, it was stated, suffered very badly from the lack of educational facilities.

### CALL-GIRL SCANDAL

Norma Levy, who figures prominently in the call-girl scandal which has toppled two ministers, is an Irish Roman Catholic. Her husband, Colin, has a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother.

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## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### Alyth Gardens Anniversary

The North Western Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, celebrated its 40th anniversary last month. The original membership was composed equally of newly arrived refugees and British citizens. Among its past presidents were Dr. Leo Baeck and Professor Norman Bentwich. Its present president is Professor Ernst Cohn.

### Woman Reform Leader

Mrs. Eva Mitchell, a vice-chairman of the 30,000-strong Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, has been elected chairman. She is the first woman to hold the post since the movement was established in 1842.

The new chairman has been involved with the Reform movement virtually all her life. Her father was president of the Jewish community in Munster, Germany, where she was born, her uncle, Rabbi Fritz Steinthal, leading the congregation in the same city. The family came to England a month before the outbreak of war, settling in Glossop, Derbyshire.

### New United Synagogue President

Sir Isaac Wolfson, who retired in June as president of the United Synagogue, personally recommended Mr. Alfred Woolf as his successor, also recommending Mr. George M. Gee as vice-president.

The main reason given by Sir Isaac for his retirement (he will be 76 in September) is that he intends to spend much more time abroad. Some quarters, however, assumed that Sir Isaac's wish to retire was precipitated by possible future disunity among the hon. officers and by criticism of his own handling of US meetings.

### ZF Clapton School

The State-aided Simon Marks Jewish Primary School, Clapton, built at a cost of over £250,000, has been formally opened. Replacing the 17-year-old Clapton Jewish Day School, it was established under the auspices of the Zionist Federation educational trust.

### Jewish Law and Medicine

In a lecture to the Institute of Jewish Studies the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, spoke on recent rabbinical response in medical ethics.

Medical opinion, he said, had now confirmed rabbinical hesitations to heart transplants, having now almost completely discontinued the operations. Halachic objections were, however, set aside in life- or sight-saving operations, provided certain safeguards were observed. Although the rabbis were also uncompromisingly opposed to direct euthanasia, some recent opinions held that in very carefully defined cases a terminal patient's agony did not have to be prolonged by artificial means.

### Anniversary of Lecture Committee

A reception was given by the Board of Deputies to mark the 40th anniversary of the Central Jewish Lecture Committee, the body engaged in anti-defamation work in this country. Tributes were paid to the chairman and secretary of the committee, the Rev. Isaac Livingstone and Mr. Myer Domnitz, respectively. Referring to the results of the West Bromwich by-election, Sir Samuel Fisher, vice-president of the Board, said: "We know from experience that whenever an anti-Negro mood prevails Jews cannot afford to ignore it, quite apart from the duty to fight injustice and discrimination even when it affects others".

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### The Watergate Affair

The annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee approved a resolution calling for a "thorough, totally independent investigation of all aspects of the Watergate scandal". Praising "the demonstrated courage of those in the judiciary, the press and Congress who have demonstrated their determination to pursue the truth wherever it may lead", the A.J.C. said that the evidence already uncovered "indicates that the political system has been compromised perhaps as never before in our history".

### J.D.L. Raid

The Federal Bureau of Investigation raided the New York office of the Jewish Defence League, reportedly ransacking it and removing a number of files. Mr. David Fish, the acting director of the J.D.L., claimed that the raid "was designed to break our spirit on the eve of Brezhnev's visit". The American Jewish Congress called on the Mayor of New York to investigate the F.B.I. raid. The organisation deplored the activities of the J.D.L., an A.J.C. spokesman said, but they were obliged to defend its civil rights.

### Honorary Degrees

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America awarded a doctorate of divinity to Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, the executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), and an honorary law doctorate to Mr. Itzhak Rabin, formerly Israel's Ambassador to the United States.

Yeshiva University awarded a doctorate of laws to Senator Henry Jackson. The university also made Mr. Eli Wiesel, the Holocaust author, and Dr. Jean Piaget, the Swiss child psychologist, doctors of humane letters.

### Jewish Mayor for New York?

With the victory of Mr. Abraham Beame in the Democratic mayoral primary, there may be a chance that New York City will have a Jewish mayor for the first time. Mr. Beame is strongly favoured because of his attraction to Jewish voters, who constitute an important voting bloc in New York.

## ARGENTINA

### Kidnapped Jews

The Argentine community is expressing grave concern at the increasing number of Argentine Jews who have been kidnapped and held to ransom this year. The latest victims are Mr. Jose Marinansky, a wealthy businessman, for whom a ransom of £350,000 was demanded, and Mr. Isaac Tchicourel, a member of the Buenos Aires Sephardi community and a leading technical expert in Argentine's textile industry.

## DENMARK

### Appointment of Nazi Lecturer

Povl Heinrich Riis-Knudsen, the 23-year-old leader of the National Socialist Youth movement, has been appointed as a lecturer at Aarhus University in Jutland. Riis-Knudsen, who has professed his admiration of Hitler and Nazism and has adopted the title of "Reichsfuehrer", will lecture on "Nazi and fascist ideology" at the university.

Many sections of the Danish public have protested against the appointment. According to Danish law, Riis-Knudsen cannot be dismissed as long as he adheres to the theme of his university lectures and abstains from propaganda.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Complicity Accusation

Writing in "Strike", the organ of the Student Jewish Association of the University of Cape Town, students criticised leaders of the Jewish community for not giving a lead in the drive against apartheid.

Moscow radio, in a broadcast beamed to Africa, used this criticism to reinforce an accusation of South African Jewish complicity "in the brutalities and humiliations from which the majority of the country's population are suffering". The broadcast singled out South African Zionists as "accomplices of the crimes of the South African racials", attacking the "top leaders of the Jewish bourgeoisie" for imposing their views on the community.

### Objection to Jewish Mayor

The Dutch Reformed Church council in the Orange Free State town of Odendaalsrust has approved a resolution protesting against the election of a Jewish mayor, Mr. Edel Cohen. The council meeting was called by the Rev. D. Botes, a prominent member of the Broederbond, the secret society which aims at maintaining Afrikaner control of key positions in South Africa. Church council members not associated with the Broederbond walked out in protest against the resolution, calling it "disgraceful".

## BELGIUM

### Intellectuals' Declaration

A declaration signed by 60 Jewish intellectuals appeared in "Le Soir", one of Belgium's biggest daily newspapers. The signatories of "The Jews and the State of Israel", which was published during Belgian Jewry's celebrations of Israel's 25th anniversary, expressed their opposition to "the opportunity given to Israel to put herself forward as the defender and spokesman of all world Jewry".

The statement denied that Zionism was an adequate response to the danger of anti-semitism, maintaining that it did not create fellowship between national communities, reduce racial tension or promote peace in the world.

This publication has caused considerable controversy within the Belgian community. The Union of Former Jewish Students published a vigorous protest against it. "Le Soir", itself commenting on the declaration, said that the assertions could not be taken seriously.

Among the signatories to the declaration appeared the names of three administrators of the Martin Buber Institute of Jewish Studies. Many of the others are members of Left-wing groups.

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## JEWRY IN THE EAST

### DR. LEVICH CONSCRIPTED

Dr. Yevgeny Levich, the astrophysicist and son of Professor Benjamin Levich, the distinguished physical chemist, has been conscripted into the Army and sent to an Arctic military camp. He was apprehended whilst on his way to a medical examination ordered by the Soviet Army because he complained that his health would not allow him to do military service. Both father and son have applied to emigrate to Israel.

Professor Levich was summoned to a meeting of the chemical board of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and told that his activities were "damaging" to the Soviet Union. He left the room in protest when the board chairman proposed the application of the academy's regulations depriving members of all academic titles "if their activity is damaging to the Soviet Union".

### EMIGRATION

The Soviet authorities are prepared to allow 300,000 Jews to leave at the rate of 30,000 a year, which would constitute about 10 per cent of the Jewish population of the Soviet Union. This belief has been expressed by the Israeli Council for Soviet Jewry, who think that this may be done to satisfy world public opinion. However, recent information indicates that Jews from Moscow, the Ukraine and other areas would have difficulties placed in their way.

### A DEMONSTRATION AND A PICNIC

About 40 Soviet Jews, all of whom had been refused permission to emigrate to Israel, staged a day-long sit-in at the offices of the Communist party central committee in Moscow. They went to inquire why the committee had not replied to a letter protesting against the unjustified rejection of thousands of applications to emigrate to Israel, and against the unjustified imprisonment and trial of Soviet Jews who had applied to go to Israel.

In celebration of Israel's 25th independence anniversary, about 100 Moscow Jews had a picnic outside the city. Under surveillance by uniformed and plain-clothes police and K.G.B. officials, the proceedings ended with the reading by a participant of the declaration of independence made by Mr. David Ben-Gurion at the Tel Aviv Museum on May 14, 1948. A number of Jews were prevented by the police from reaching the picnic in their cars, and police arrested a group of young Moscow Jews who visited the picnic site the day before, releasing them after the picnic.

### IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE IN HUNGARY

Sholem Aleichem's play, "Fiddler on the Roof", first shown in February, continues to attract packed theatre audiences in Budapest. Although the many reviews praising the production largely ignore the Jewish element, prominent members of Hungary's 100,000 Jews judge the success of the play as indicative of the improved atmosphere in the country.

A Jew may experience certain disadvantages in job competition in Hungary, but most members of the community report no open discrimination, in spite of the Hungarian Government's anti-Israel stance and the anti-Zionist comments appearing in the press. Quite a large number of Jews occupy prominent posts in the Government and in industrial, commercial and cultural spheres, and Jewish religious observance is allowed on the same basis as that permitted to other faiths. In Budapest alone about 30 synagogues are open, with others in the provinces. About 15 Jewish students attend courses at the Hungarian Rabbinical Seminary in the capital—the only rabbinical seminary in the Communist countries. Jewish religion and history is taught along with the State syllabus at the Anne Frank High School, attended by about 75 pupils. There is a market for matzot baked in Budapest among the Jewish communities of East Germany and Czechoslovakia, and there are enough kosher butchers' shops to meet local demands for kosher meat.

Hans I. Bach

# A Comprehensive Biography of Leo Baeck

In time for the centenary of Leo Baeck's birth, the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization publishes Dr. Albert H. Friedlander's biography, "Leo Baeck, Teacher of Theresienstadt" (Routledge, £4). Rabbi Friedlander, the Minister of Westminster Synagogue and Director of Studies at the Leo Baeck College, London, was a pupil of Leo Baeck himself. The English edition follows the American (1968). In a German translation by Eva Gärtner, published simultaneously under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Institute (Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart, 1973, DM 30) some changes and additions have been incorporated.

The introduction, "Prelude at Terezin", presents Leo Baeck as a "beast of burden" carrying a garbage cart and conducting philosophical conversations with his companion, a university don, and likewise portraying him as the rabbi and teacher following his call even, and just, in this environment. In the following biographical part the published data of Leo Baeck's life are carefully collected, and Dr. Friedlander has been able to add to them hitherto unknown material. An old pupil of Baeck, Dr. Alfred Jospe, "shared" with him his "insights on Leo Baeck's life and thought." From Rabbi Dr. Emil Cohn's son he obtained an unpublished letter in which Leo Baeck, still at Oppeln, expressed his indignation at his colleague's dismissal by the Berlin Jewish community owing to his Zionist activities. The New York Leo Baeck Institute put at his disposal a letter refusing a post in America offered to Leo Baeck during the Nazi years and a post-war correspondence with a Dr. R. Jaser. Dr. Friedlander could complement his material by a number of interviews, with Ernst Simon, Abraham Heschel, the famous Protestant theologian Paul Tillich, and even Hannah Arendt.

Ernst Simon told him the anecdote of a lunch invitation by an adherent of the extremely orthodox Rabbi Breuer at Frankfort which Leo Baeck accepted with the qualification: "I can only eat *milchig* in your house". His host asked hotly: "Do you question my *kashrut*?" Baeck replied: "At the home of a man who questions the *kashrut* of my friend Nobel, I can only eat *milchig*". (Rabbi Nephemia Nobel was an orthodox minister at Frankfort, bitterly attacked by the extremists.)

One of these interviews, with Paul Tillich, seems to have strongly influenced Dr. Friedlander in arriving at a view he might otherwise not have taken. He quotes from Eric Boehm's book, "We survived" (1949), that a fellow prisoner at Theresienstadt, an engineer Gruenberg, told Dr. Baeck in strictest confidence that Auschwitz, the so-called "resettlement camp" to which Terezin inmates were being sent, was an extermination camp whose inmates were gassed (rumours to this effect were circulating anyway). Boehm's report continues that Leo Baeck, after a hard inner struggle, came to the grave decision not to tell anybody. Dr. Friedlander discussed the problem with Tillich who criticised Baeck's decision: "He should have spoken out. The full existential truth should always be made available, just as the incurable patient should always be told the full truth. "It is a wide open question, however, whether incurable patients should always be told the truth—only those should who want it and can take it."

Dr. Friedlander seems to have more or less accepted Tillich's critical position. Leo Baeck, however, could be certain that such a disclosure would have deprived thousands of their last glimpse of hope—so many of the people of the camp, as he put it, "went out

like candles" anyway. Could his decision not also be understood as a responsible, heroic silence?

The new German version of the biography adds a recollection from Leo Baeck's first rabbinic appointment at Oppeln, two brief quotes from letters of his to his daughter, then a young girl, and passages from a diary of Rabbi Dr. Salzberger during the first world war when Dr. Baeck was stationed at the Eastern front. There is also the nice story of a Jewish man whom he discovered when visiting Russian prisoners of war and for whom he obtained leave during Sabbath. Since his unit was transferred, however, he had to stay and travel with Dr. Baeck, as "his" prisoner of war, for quite some time.

From Eva Reichmann's recollections of what Dr. Baeck told her on his return from Theresienstadt, two may be quoted: the charming one that the Russians who liberated the camp, treating him with great respect, put a troop horse at his disposal which, experienced in riding from the first world war, he was glad to use. The other story is very serious. One of the barracks at Terezin was then overcrowded with typhoid patients in the last stages of the disease who clamoured for release. Baeck went to the barracks and closed the door behind him. When he started to speak, he was shouted down. He countered this by lowering his voice to a whisper—then it became quiet. He told his fellow prisoners that to grant their request would mean a last victory for the Nazis by the infection of the survivors. When one of them asked: "And what will become of us?" Leo Baeck said: "I shall stay with you", and they saw that he had brought with him a bundle of his belongings and his night-things. He stayed with them until they urged him to leave in order to avoid becoming infected himself.

The view of Leo Baeck which Dr. Friedlander met with in several of his interviews was "a continued emphasis upon him as a great religious personality, as the outstanding communal leader, as a great moral hero rather than as an important thinker". Feeling that these judgments were "not based on a full evaluation of Baeck's thought," he set out to provide just that and thus to present "the outlines of an intellectual biography". The two first chapters, the biography proper, are therefore followed by five chapters on Baeck's writings: "First Encounter: Baeck's polemic against Harnack"; "The Essence of Judaism"; "Baeck and Christianity"; "Leo Baeck and the Religion of Polarity"; "The later Teachings of Leo Baeck". An epilogue on the question "Can there be theology today?", a detailed bibliography and an Index conclude the volume.

Dr. Friedlander places Baeck's polemic against Harnack in "The Essence of Judaism" firmly in the climate of opinion at the turn of this century. Translating the chief passages, for the first time, he discusses in detail the three important lectures Baeck gave (1922-24) at Count Keyserling's "School of Wisdom" at Darmstadt, "Mystery and Commandment", "Perfection and Tension" (a confrontation of the Greek and the Biblical spirit) and "Death and Rebirth", as well as a later lecture, "Individuum ineffabile", at the Eranos meeting in southern Switzerland and, of course, Baeck's last work, begun at the concentration camp "This People Israel: The Meaning of Jewish Existence".

On "Mystery and Commandment", the centre of Leo Baeck's theological conception, Dr.

Friedlander states that the essay can only be fully understood "when it is seen as the great poem in which the tension and the paradox of Jewish experience becomes the great confession of the Jewish faith. . . . The essay must also be understood on the basis of Baeck's personality. And, conversely, it tells us a great deal about Baeck. The few studies of Baeck's life that have appeared . . . and the reports of contemporaries have all stressed the rational thinker who followed Hermann Cohen: cool, somewhat detached, ironic and irenic [the German version rightly adds: a mediator]. But behind that rationalism there was the burning knowledge of the revelation". More precisely, Friedlander calls Baeck a "representative of rationalism within mysticism", speaks of his "metaphysical poetry" and of his "millenarian messianism." Extending his teacher's special interest in the ancient *midrash* as a clarification of Jewish teaching and a defence against attacks by either pagans or Christians, Friedlander characterises much of Baeck's writing as a "new *midrash*" and, doing full justice to his lifelong defence of Judaism against Christianity, calls him a "modern *Jehuda Halevi*".

With regard to the connection between Baeck's works and his personality, Friedlander notes that the personal pronoun "I" is never used: "The man always receded behind the message". He continues: "Yet behind that calmness, which could sometimes be cold, and that Olympian detachment, which sometimes appeared almost too far away from life, there blazed a passion and an excitement which could and did communicate itself to others. His private life gives full testimony of an inner warmth and a personal commitment to the *Mitmensch* that made him reach out to student or congregant or friend with deep concern for the other life. The public life was different, *had* to be different when Baeck knew himself to represent German Jewry as it was being liquidated. But to some extent there does exist a personal testimony, even a mystic testimony: Baeck's writings. Identified with Judaism and with Jewry, his apologetics become an *apologia pro vita sua* [apology for his own life]. And his description of the mystery and the commandment as it exists in the Jewish experience is a delineation of his innermost self. When Baeck describes Jewish mysticism in terms of its ethical impulse and its rational system, he is again describing an aspect of his self which cleaves to this type of mysticism within the Jewish experience. When he shows the hidden polemics of the rabbinic texts in the centuries of Christianity's first development, he gives us an insight into his own works where the polemic is now open, now concealed. And when Baeck talks about the strength rising out of the unity of mystery and commandment, he is delineating the religious type discovered within the Jewish experience and in rigid self-examination". Dr. Friedlander can at times be quite critical of Leo Baeck and, very rightly, objects to all efforts to elevate him into a saint.

He is well aware that "a full-scale biography is still vitally needed" and regrets, for instance, his inability to do full justice to all the varied aspects of Baeck's work at the Reichsvertretung. Yet long before the Nazi era, Baeck the communal leader combined, as Friedlander so well describes, not a few of the highest offices within German Jewry: as head of the Association of German Rabbis, comprising traditional and progressive ministers, as Grand President of the Order of B'nai B'rith, a member of the executive committee of the Centralverein, president of the Keren Hayesod and one of the leaders of the Jewish

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Helga Wolff

## IMMIGRANTS BEFORE AND AFTER THE WAR

### Integration or Segregation?

We came to this country as children, that is my generation, now middle-aged. My parents had sent me to France in 1938, my new home, so I thought, but at the end of the Spanish Civil War a flood of refugees crossed the Pyrenees and the French Government reviewed all our cases. It was then discovered that the visa on my Kinderausweis only permitted me to stay for two weeks. I had actually been in France over 10 months by then.

The *Préfecture de Police* subsequently extended my stay for two weeks at a time on two or three occasions, but finally I saw the writing on the wall. They meant to deport me back to Germany. The misery on the stairs and in the long corridors of the *Préfecture* was heart-breaking. All of us

### Leo Baeck Biography

Continued from page 5

Agency for Palestine, chairman of the Central Jewish Welfare Board (associated with the League of national charitable organisations within Germany), supporting the Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten, etc. Friedlander rightly states that these offices came to Leo Baeck unbidden—the most assiduous climber would have been unable to achieve and hold them all.

One may wonder how one man was able to combine all this work with his conscientious attention to his ministerial duties, with teaching at the *Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums*, with extensive writing, yet (in the German version) Dr. Friedlander merely expresses surprise at Baeck as "organisation man" ("Organisationsmensch"). The fact is that Baeck may well have been one of the most gifted administrators among German Jews since Josefmann of Rosheim (with whom the dedication of Selma Stern's book to Leo Baeck, *Judaeorum Defensori Nobilissimo*, links up his name). This is an aspect of him which in a full-size biography will certainly find its rightful place. An example of Baeck's refusal to separate the committee room from the pulpit was his order to the publisher of the Buber-Rosenzweig translation of the Bible, on behalf of the Association of Prussian Jewish Congregations, of one copy for each and every Jewish family, which he carried out against determined resistance. When it was pointed out to him that most of the recipients would not read the difficult translation, he replied: "They do not have to read it, they only have to buy it", adding that if not they then their children or grandchildren would read it.

A related task of a full-sized biography would be to fill in the wider range of personal relationships of Leo Baeck.

"He has left us no systematic theology but a way of life", concludes Dr. Friedlander. He has fully achieved his aim to give us the intellectual biography of his teacher, and his book is a pioneering work, indispensable to whoever wants to see for himself who Leo Baeck really was.

Jews—from Germany, Austria, the Sudetenland and Spain—were told to leave and, as many of our own refugees could not speak French, the official asked me to help him in passing on the sad news: we were unwanted and had to find another haven which, of course, proved to be a very lucky thing in the light of subsequent events.

There were many children like myself without family. The Jewish organisation in Paris bundled 30 of us together and sent us post haste with a children's transport to England. It was pathetic. There were little ones who were in what I can only describe a linguistic muddle, because during their short career on this earth they had been pushed right through Central Europe and, via France, were now on the way to London. Committee ladies received us with benign smiles. I was separated from my fellow arrivals and brought to a hostel in Maida Vale. At first I was the blue-eyed girl because I excelled in French. Yet the spell was soon broken as I rebelled against the monotony of the hostel routine and against the committee ladies who could not understand that some of us were anxious to receive further education and eventually enter a profession. So I got myself a job—during the so-called phoney war period—and, to the horror of everyone, I removed myself from the hostel. I just earned enough, 25 shillings. It kept body and soul together and I felt free.

Now I lost complete contact with the refugee circle and I began to adjust myself to the environment: the humble abode where I rented the first bed-sitter with very kind solicitous neighbours, the rough and ready but thoroughly decent women at work, and in the evening, the charming and helpful staff of an L.C.C. institute where I took classes. Because I had no family or refugee "set up", I naturally found it easy to absorb the English way of life. As fate indeed smiled on me, I finally ended up, in a very minor capacity, on Miss Eleanor Rathbone's Parliamentary staff and there, of course, the intellectual and cultural gates were thrown wide open for me. I remember walking with Miss Rathbone in her lovely garden in Highgate, listening spellbound to her reminiscences, her early days in the House when she knew Joseph Chamberlain and Asquith. It was a great privilege to have met Miss Rathbone, and I am deeply indebted to her for sending me to college.

That is a long time ago. Now, as a teacher I have become closely involved with the problem of helping to adjust the new wave of immigrants in our midst. In our little world in school we number Pakistanis, Africans, Indians, Italians, Spanish children, Portuguese families, Cypriots—Greek and Turkish. All of them are trying to make a new home for themselves, just as we did 35 years ago. However, we came either by ourselves, or just the very closest family circle. They are here in vast groups: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. They live together in tightly-knit communities — one almost has the impression they are frightened to let in the English air, lest they should lose their identity. Yet the children come to us, trying to learn the new language from 9 a.m.-3.30 p.m., and then they revert to their mother tongue for the rest of the day, week-ends and holidays. At first they stick together in little groups because they feel completely lost, not only because of their language difficulty but because of the different

emotional approach. The mothers, not unlike some of our Continental mothers, have a kind of "smothering" love and hold on to the child which makes it ten times harder for him to appreciate the calm, kind and understanding atmosphere of the school. To reach the parents is no mean feat, because they feel, according to their lights, that we are not sympathetic enough.

Gradually, the child begins to understand the pattern of school life, he enjoys it and participates. Of course, our teaching has to be re-orientated completely. I remember "doing" the Vikings with my multi-national and multi-racial crew. We very craftily constructed a Viking longship, dressed up as warriors and sailed across our hall to raid the Saxon monasteries. I carefully filled in all the background information. It stuck. As luck would have it, the ITV kindly reinforced the impact by accidentally showing a series on the same theme. But, of course, my little Viking warriors came home to their mamas and papas—what on earth should the conflict between the Vikings and the Saxons 1,000 years ago mean to a hard-working Hindu, Muslim, Greek or Turkish Cypriot? As an antidote many send their children to their own schools week-ends, when these youngsters, already burdened with additional difficulties, should enjoy just being children.

As they get older problems increase and with it a special aspect of the generation gap emerges. How are these young persons expected to become part of the working or student population of this country, if they are hamstrung by the tradition of their fathers? I feel sorry for both—the old and the young. The old because they will never really accept or fully understand and the young because their uneven path to adulthood is paved with great soul-searching and unhappiness. Which world to choose—and will they be allowed to integrate?

For me there was no real choice—I was thrown into the deep end and learned to swim with the tide. Yet I got the best of both worlds by marrying into our set with its own cultural and intellectual heritage.

### BRITISH POLICY ON JEWISH QUESTIONS

Under the auspices of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, London, a history of British policy on Jewish questions throughout the Second World War is to be written by Dr. A. J. Sherman, research fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford.

Based on official papers only recently open to the public, the study is likely to shed new light on such subjects as British war-time policy on Palestine, the extent to which Government departments were aware of the Nazi extermination programme, and official attitudes towards rescue attempts in occupied Europe.

### LINGUIST'S MEDAL

One of this year's ten recipients of the Institute of Linguists medals for outstanding services in the world of languages is Professor David Diringer.

Reader in scientific epigraphy (the interpretation and classification of inscriptions) at Cambridge University and at the Alphabet Museum in Tel Aviv, Professor Diringer received the award for "original work on the history of the alphabet throughout the ages and in all lands".

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# KATJA MANN--ON HER NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

July 24th, 1973

"Age cannot wither her"—Shakespeare's words are once again endorsed.

The mysteries of old age and longevity inspire admiration. But why? Respect — fair enough. But admiration? Is it considered an achievement "by merit all man's own"? Religious piety sees in it the grace of God. Our more rational time tries to give it more rational reasons.

In "Lotte in Weimar" Thomas Mann says: "All Heroismus liegt in der Ausdauer, im Willen zu leben und nicht zu sterben." From this aspect longevity acquires moral values analogous to loyalty, faithfulness and perseverance. And Goethe, it seems, was of the same opinion for he said to Friedrich Soret: "Wie dumm die Menschen sind, dass sie nicht den Mut haben länger zu leben!" So longevity rests not only on loyalty and faithfulness to the gift of life. It also implies courage.

Loyalty, faithfulness, perseverance, courage — these mighty human qualities are the main pillars of Katja Mann's character. On them rests like an architrave, strong, pure and beautiful, her exceptional capacity for love. Her celebrated and devoted husband said of her in his moving speech on her 70th birthday: "Sie war Mutter so ganz wie sie Gattin war, und um nichts überwog eine Liebessorge die andere". And her "Liebessorge" radiates to her friends also, who return it with devotion and gratitude.

"Alles geben die Götter, die unendlichen, Ihren Lieblingen ganz,  
Alle die Freuden, die unendlichen,  
Alle Schmerzen, die unendlichen, ganz."  
Joy and happiness were hers in an exceptionally blessed life. Blessed by the joy and happiness of her married life with a great man; by the joy and happiness of loving children and grandchildren; and now, in her great age, even great-grandchildren. She once told

me that ever since her young days — since she made her grandmother, the famous writer and suffragette, Hedwig Dohm, a great-grandmother—it was a supreme wish of hers to enjoy one day the happiness of being a great-grandmother herself.

"Alle Schmerzen, die unendlichen, ganz!" With the loyalty, the perseverance, the courage which are her own, she accepts the sweet and the bitter gifts of life. And the bitter gifts were, indeed, no less in their bitterness than the sweet ones in their sweetness.

It is not my wish on this great and festive day to dwell on memories of unmitigated grief. However, it would be unthinkable not to recall the bitter loss Katja Mann has suffered quite recently. All her friends hoped that she might celebrate this day together with her twin brother, the great conductor, Klaus Pringsheim. She kept the grief to herself, from her nearest friends, and even from her family. But those who know and love her, they understood. And when she wrote to me shortly after his death: "[...] und so gönne ich ihm die Ruhe, wenn es auch traurig ist, dass wir alten Zwillinge nun nicht nächsten Sommer den neunzigsten Geburtstag gemeinsam feiern", my heart went out to her with compassion. As it does today, though filled too with good wishes for her and those whom she loves. May she be spared all further grief.

## MRS. JEANETTE WOLFF 85

Mrs. Jeanette Wolff recently celebrated her 85th birthday in Berlin. She was actively associated with the Social Democratic Party since 1909 and from 1919 onwards a councillor of her city of birth, Bochum. She survived the period of persecution in several concentration camps. After the war she resumed her public activities first as member of the Berlin city council, and, from 1952 to 1962, as a member of the Bonn parliament. There she played a leading part in the legislative efforts at compensation for the victims of Nazi persecution. In recognition of her manifold services she was awarded the Great Federal Cross of Merit and, in 1967, became "Stadtaelteste" of Berlin. At the same time, Jeanette Wolff has always been associated with the work of the central Jewish organisations as well as of the Berlin Jewish community as a member and, for some time, chairman of the "Repraesentantenversammlung". There are few Jewish personalities in post-war Germany whose activities have been as widespread as those of Jeanette Wolff. Her memoirs, which she is writing at present, will certainly become a most valuable contribution to the history of our time.

E.G.L.

## MR. JOSEF FRAENKEL 70

The authority on the history of Zionism, Mr. Josef Fraenkel (London), recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Born in Western Galicia, he went to Vienna during the First World War, where he later became active in the Jewish Students movement. When the Nazis assumed power in Austria, he first fled to Czechoslovakia. He came to England shortly before the War. For the past 25 years, Mr. Fraenkel has held a senior position with the World Jewish Congress. His duties include the editorship of "The Jewish Press in the World", an indispensable compendium for Jewish journalists and communal workers. He has several books on Zionist history to his credit. As a journalist, he contributes to Jewish papers all over the world, and "AJR Information" also repeatedly had the benefit of his co-operation. We extend our sincerest congratulations to our friend Josef Fraenkel.

## PROF. WALTER SIMON 80

The Sinologist, Professor Walter Simon, C.B.E., F.B.A., recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Born in Berlin, he was after completion of his studies appointed Lecturer and, at the early age of 27, Professor Extraordinary of Chinese at Berlin University. He came to this country in 1935, where he became Lecturer and later Reader of Chinese at the School of Oriental and African Studies of London University and eventually Head of the Chinese Department. On the occasion of his retirement in 1961 he was awarded the C.B.E.

Professor Simon has more than 100 publications to his credit, among them many standard works which have become the basis of modern teaching of Chinese, Manchu and Tibetan. Though officially retired, he is still active, and his duties include the chairmanship of the Editorial Board of "Asia Minor", the British Journal of Far Eastern Studies.

On this special birthday we wish him many more years of health and happiness.

A.C.H.K.

## POSTHUMOUS AWARD FOR COURAGEOUS WOMAN

The Israeli "Medal for the Righteous" was posthumously awarded to Marie-Luise Hensel, who lost her life under tragic circumstances. The medal was handed over by the Israeli Ambassador in Bonn, Eliashiv Ben-Horin, to the sons of Mrs. Hensel, Gesandter i.R. Kurt Hensel and Martin Hensel.

Marie-Luise Hensel, née Flothmann, was the widow of Dr. Albert Hensel, Professor of Law at Marburg University, who had died in autumn 1933. In August 1942, Mrs Hensel, in co-operation with a friend who lived at Lake Constance, tried to get a Jewish lawyer of Marburg and his wife and daughter illegally across the German-Swiss frontier in order to save these three people from deportation. The two women were, however, arrested by German frontier posts and brought into Constance prison. After three days of severe cross examination, Mrs. Hensel put an end to her life in the prison cell. Details of this tragic episode are described by the American John K. Dickinson in his biographical-sociological study, published 1967 in Chicago under the title "German and Jew—The Life and Death of Sigmund Stein" (the name Stein being used as a pseudonym).

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Eric Gottgetreu

## WILLY BRANDT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST

Chancellor Brandt's recent visit to Israel gives special topicality to the following article, whose author already knew Willy Brandt at the time when, as a young Socialist in Luebeck, he started to embark on his activities as a newsman.—The Ed.

Willy Brandt was among the first journalists, if not the first, who revealed to the world the existence of Hitler's death camps in Poland while the crematoria in Auschwitz were still under construction. It took some time before he was believed.

The story of when and how he conveyed these Job's tidings was disclosed August last year in "The New York Times" by H. R. Wishengrad, an American-Jewish journalist in Washington. Wishengrad remembers how in mid-1942 ONA (Overseas News Agency), for which he was working at the time, received from Brandt, its correspondent in Stockholm, several news items on the death camps prepared by Hitler's henchmen for the Jews. Many of ONA's subscribers at first disbelieved this news and refrained from publishing it. They only changed their minds when corroborative evidence came in from other sources in Geneva and Lisbon. It will be recalled that on December 8, 1942, Rabbi Stephen Wise led a delegation to the White House and handed to President Roosevelt a twenty-page document entitled "Blueprint for Extermination". The delegation told the President that by then two million Jews had been killed in Hitlerised Europe in various ways and that according to the information received from an anti-Nazi German industrialist by the Jewish World Congress representative in Geneva mass murder by asphyxiation was now being prepared.

Brandt's career as a newsman started in his home town, Luebeck, while he was still a pupil at the "Johanneum" Secondary School and a leader with the "Rote Falken", a Socialist youth organisation. He frequently wrote for the local Social Democratic daily, the "Luebecker Volksbote", edited by Dr. Julius Leber, a leading Socialist Reichstag Deputy. As one of the Volksbote's three sub-editors in 1929, I still remember the then 16-year-old blond Herbert Frahm (he adopted the name Willy Brandt as a pen-name during his emigration) storming into the office with his manuscripts—usually on Socialist youth activities.

Dr. Leber, the editor-in-chief in those years, was Herbert's mentor and an inspiring fatherly friend.

He did not live to see his pupil's triumph. Leber was arrested early in 1933, kept four years in prisons and concentration camps, later released but re-arrested in 1944 because of his involvement in the officer's anti-Hitler plot and executed on January 5, 1945, in Berlin.

The second-in-command at the "Volksbote", Dr. Fritz Solmitz, also had a considerable influence on young Herbert Frahm. Solmitz was an intellectual of Jewish origin who had joined the Socialist movement in the hope that it would combine modern thoughts with the best of the Jewish and Christian ethical tradition. Accordingly, he gave his moral and practical support to the group of "Religious Socialists" within the German Social Democratic Party in the hope of modifying its sometimes abstract and dogmatic Marxist approach.

Solmitz was murdered by his Nazi gaolers in September, 1933. His influence on young Herbert Frahm is clearly reflected in Willy Brandt's memoirs "Mein Weg nach Berlin" (in co-operation with Leo Lania; Kindler

Verlag, Muenchen 1960) where he writes: "The Christian ethics appealed to me. In my opinion, a true socialist was not a worse but a better Christian. It seemed to me that a life of tolerance, justice and love of man should be more important to God than any lip service and ceremonial ritual."

Brandt mentions in his memoirs that in his youth he had very little contact with people of Jewish origin and that there were never more than two Jewish pupils in his class at school—it was taken for granted that they did not attend lessons on Saturday. The young workers—with whom Frahm always identified himself—rejected antisemitism as part of the Hitler ideology but they obviously did not realise how deeply rooted it was in certain sections of the German bourgeoisie (especially as Luebeck was one of those "Red Towns" which were never visited by Hitler at the time of the Republic). In "Mein Weg nach Berlin" Brandt said of his reactions in 1933: "It was with almost incredulous astonishment, but great bitterness, that we heard the reports of the persecutions of Jews. Though they could not be compared with the atrocities of the following years, they were horrifying in their ignominy and senseless brutality. There was a certain logic when active anti-Nazis fell as victims of their resistance. But there were people who generally had not even participated in the political struggle and were only hunted and tortured because they were born as Jews."

After Brandt had left Luebeck in 1933, there was not one piece of journalistic work written by him which was not devoted to the fight against what Hitler stood for. The first man he got in touch with after his arrival in Oslo in 1933 was Finn Moe, the experienced Foreign News editor at the "Arbeiderbladet", the central organ of the Norwegian Labour Party. Brandt's first-hand information on the last days of Republican resistance in Germany and his evaluation of current events were very important to the paper. His first articles written in Oslo—which he also sent to other workers' papers in Norway—had still to be translated, but helped by his considerable linguistic talents, he was soon able to write in Norwegian. At the same time, he continued, however, writing in German placing articles in a number of anti-Nazi papers in other free countries of Europe. And finally, he gave a hand in the writing and production of several illegal anti-Nazi publications which were printed on very thin paper and smuggled into Nazi Germany by various methods.

A sort of indirect journalistic activity was Willy Brandt's participation in the campaign for the Nobel Peace Prize award for Carl von Ossietzky in 1936. He was able to collect the signatures of 69 members of the Norwegian Storting and of 59 of the Swedish Riksdag in support of the "Peace Prize for Ossietzky"

campaign, the final success of which infuriated Hitler and induced him to forbid all Germans to accept it ever again. The ban remained in force till April, 1945, when the thousand years were over.

In February, 1937, Willy Brandt went to Spain to report on the then eight-month-old civil war from the Republican side for a number of Scandinavian papers. As he could not refrain from strong criticism of the Communist retaliation against their opponents among the Republicans, he was soon denounced by them as a "Franco agent" and a "Gestapo spy". But in Spain, too, Brandt only reported the truth as he saw it.

During the Second World War he relentlessly continued his journalistic war against the Hitler régime and for a progressive, democratic post-war Germany—at first from Oslo, later from Stockholm. After the defeat of the Swastika régime, Scandinavian papers availed themselves of his expert knowledge of Nazism by inviting him to report the Nuremberg trials. His subsequent decision to remain in Germany and to co-operate in its reconstruction was symbolised by his nomination as editor of the first post-war Social Democratic Party organ in Berlin, "Der Sozialdemokrat", which was later named "Berliner Stadtblatt", and finally "Berliner Stimme." Another Berlin paper licensed in the late '40s, the "Telegraf", was edited by Annedore Leber, Dr. Julius Leber's widow, in co-operation with the former Republican Reichstag President, Paul Loebe, and Arno Scholz.

Early in the '50s, Willy Brandt's political fight for the freedom and the rights of Berlin—he became Berlin S.P.D. representative in the Bundestag and in 1957 Governing Mayor of the city—obliged him to leave journalism for good. But even when he was chosen to hold the top positions in the S.P.D. and finally in the Government, he never gave up his close connections with the press.

In 1951 he was among the first to join the "Peace with Israel" movement initiated by Rudolf Kuestermeier (then editor-in-chief of "Die Welt") and by Erich Lueth (then Director of the Hamburg Press Office). It may also be significant that when two years ago he had to pick the third German Ambassador to Israel, he chose a former journalist: Jesco von Puttkamer, a member of the anti-Hitler opposition, subsequently one of the top editors of the Munich "Neue Zeitung" and of the "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" and finally editor-in-chief of the re-established Social Democratic "Vorwaerts" in Bonn.

Obviously, Chancellor Brandt does not subscribe to the Bismarckian saying "Journalists are people who have funkled in their profession" — a rule to which Bismarck only admitted exceptions in the case of journalists who gave him their unconditional allegiance.

### DEATH OF FRENCH ZIONIST LEADER

The distinguished French lawyer and Zionist leader, Maître André Blumel, has died in Paris at the age of 80. The pro-Communist Maître Blumel, who was born in Paris, came under the influence of the great French-Jewish statesman, Leon Blum, and he was appointed principal private secretary in pre-war Popular Front governments of which Blum was Premier.

He was secretary-general and, from 1955 to 1960, president of the French Zionist Federation, and was also president of the Franco-Soviet Friendship Association. His friendly advances to Russia and other Communist States caused him to be in constant opposition with the Zionist movement in general.

In 1965 he was elected to the Paris City Council as a member of the Democratic Union (Socialist-Communist Popular Front). Despite his political sympathies, however, he was always dedicated to his life-long Zionist ideals.

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# NEWS ABOUT ISRAEL

## AFRICAN DENOUNCEMENT

The Organisation of African Unity at its summit conference in Addis Ababa passed a strongly worded anti-Israel resolution. Warning Israel that her attitude might lead O.A.U. member States to take individual or collective political and economic measures against her, the resolution claimed that the security, territorial integrity and unity of the African continent was threatened by Israel's "continued aggression". The resolution called for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from all occupied "African and Arab territories".

Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, who addressed African heads of State meeting in Addis Ababa to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the O.A.U., stating that the Middle East situation was highly explosive called for a new effort to evolve a peaceful settlement in the region.

Burundi severed relations with Israel on the ground of opposing the occupation of Arab territory and supporting Egypt's position. The other African States who have severed relations with Israel in the past 15 months are Uganda, Niger, Mali, Chad and Congo (Brazzaville).

## TOURISM

Tourism was down by 15 per cent in the first three months of this year, compared with the figure last year. An upsurge in April during Passover and Easter and the beginning of Independence Day celebrations, gave tourism a considerable uplift.

Disclosing these figures Mr. Hanoch Givton, the director-general of the Tourist Ministry, said that the political and security situation has had an effect on tourist figures. But despite the Lod massacre and Munich, tourism in 1972 showed an 11 per cent increase over 1971, and he looked forward to a 10 per cent increase in the summer season.

## SOVIET EMIGRES

During the first four months of this year, more than 10,000 Jewish immigrants arrived from the Soviet Union. A big increase is also expected in the number of immigrants from Latin America this year.

## PARENTS' HOME EXTENDED

The Austrian Parents' Home (Anitta Mueller-Cohen Heim) in Ramat Chen was extended by a new wing, which is to bear the name of the late Zvi Kraemer, Deputy General Secretary of the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, who died last November. At the consecration ceremony, which took place in the presence of the Austrian Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Johanna Nestor, addresses were delivered by Dr. Josef Lamm, Dr. Hans Tramer and Dr. Georg Weis. On behalf of the American and British sections of the Council of Jews from Austria messages were sent by Dr. Gustav Jellinek and Dr. Charles Kapralik. The extended Home provides accommodation for 65 residents in 41 single rooms and 12 double rooms.

## SPIES SENTENCED

Haifa district court has gaoled eight more members, including two Jews, of a group of 36 people charged with being members of a Syrian spy and sabotage ring uncovered in Israel last December. The eight received prison terms of between three and ten years.

A total of 23 men belonging to the Syrian spy ring have now been sentenced, and verdicts are expected soon in the trial of the remaining twelve men, including a further two Jews. In March two other Jews were also sentenced on the same charges, receiving lengthy prison terms.

## SYRIA AND IRAQ

### Persecution Continues

In New York an escaped Iraqi Jew said that he had spent more than two years in Baghdad gaols and had been frequently tortured. Three escaped Damascus Jews who also appeared at the press conference, substantiated reports of murder and repression of Syrian Jewry. The community of about 3,000 living in Damascus among 30,000 Palestinians were constant targets of rape, assault and abuse.

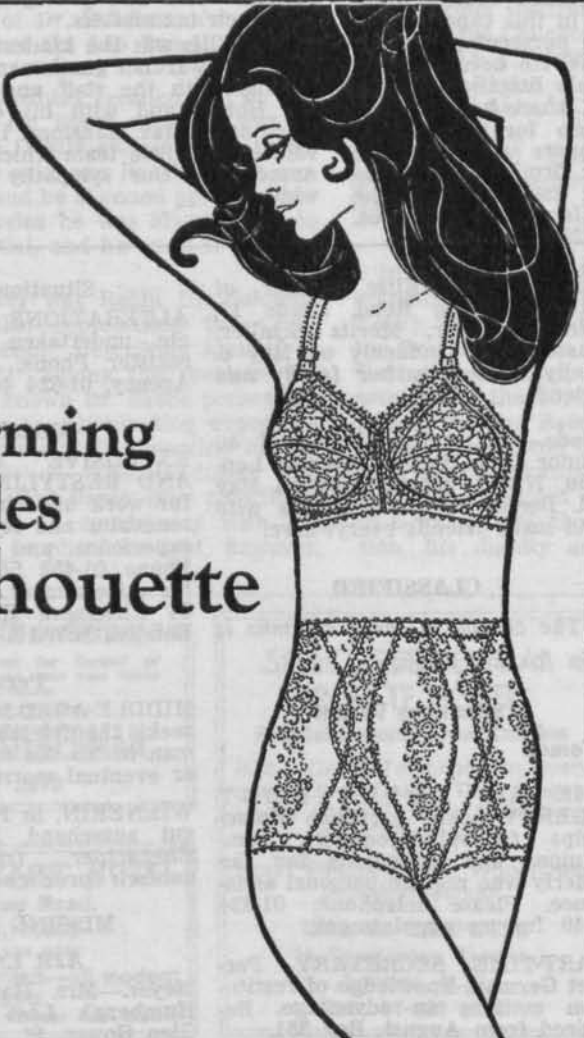
### World Action

Addressing the World Zionist Organisation in Israel, Mr. Arye L. Pincus, the Jewish Agency chairman, said that Jews in Syria, like Jews in Iraq, are disappearing in mysterious circumstances and there are increasing fears for their safety. The homes of Syrian Jews had been daubed with red paint to differentiate them from their neighbours and they were living like the Jews of Germany under Hitler. The W.Z.O. executive is considering ways of alerting Jewish communities throughout the world to the plight of Jews in Syria and Iraq.

Dr. Alexander Safran, the Chief Rabbi of Geneva, has appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to intercede with the Baghdad authorities to stop the murder, imprisonment and torture of Iraqi Jews.

The American Jewish Committee at its annual meeting in New York charged that "the Iraqis now appear to have begun the systematic killing of selected Jews without even the pretence of a trial".

In Israel a traveller just returned from Iraq at a press conference gave the names of 19 Baghdad Jews who have recently disappeared and are believed to have been detained by the Iraqi security police. The traveller said that there were now about 350 Jews in Baghdad and 35 in the port city of Basra. Many Iraqis were well disposed towards their Jewish neighbours but, he said, they were afraid to show this openly through fear.



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# IN MEMORIAM

## CURT L. LANG

It is learned with regret that Mr. Curt Lang died in Paris at the age of 65. He was born in Berlin where, after the completion of his university studies, he was a "Referendar", when the Nazis came to power. He emigrated to France and worked as a journalist specialising on economic and political subjects. After the occupation, he fled to the Hautes Pyrenees. When France was liberated he first obtained an assignment with the "Comité de Coopération Intellectuelle" to purge school books of their racist connotations. Later he became French delegate to ORT International. Curt Lang was one of the founder members of "Solidarité des Réfugiés Israélites", the organisation of the Jews from Germany in France. The establishment of Homes for his fellow refugees under the auspices of "Solidarité" is, to a high extent, due to his efforts. During the last years of his life, he devoted his time and experience to research on the History of the Immigration of the Nazi victims. His work for "Solidarité" brought him into close contact with the AJR and other member organisations of the Council of Jews from Germany, and his modest, helpful and knowledgeable personality will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him.

## GERHARD F. KRAMER

The jurist Gerhard Kramer, who held leading positions in post-war Germany, died in Hamburg at the age of 69. Originating from the Social Democratic students' movement, he resigned as a public prosecutor at the Berlin Law Court in 1933 and became a lawyer. One of his first clients was Sally Epstein, who was indicted in connection with the death of Horst Wessel and whom he courageously defended.

After the war Kramer first became public prosecutor in Hamburg and, in this capacity, was in charge of the proceedings against Veit Harlan. From 1958 to 1966 he was representative of the city of Hamburg in Bonn. Later, as Senator of Culture, he took an active part in the organisation of functions such as the bicentenary celebration of Salomon Heine, the centenary of Aby M. Warburg, and the opening of the exhibition of works by the painter Charlotte Salomon, who perished in Auschwitz.

## DR. PAUL EINZIG

Dr. Paul Einzig, the well-known writer on economics and before his retirement in 1956 political correspondent on the "Financial Times", recently died at the age of 75. He was born in Brasiv, Transylvania, and came to England in 1919. In the 1930s, he made himself the dedicated enemy of Nazi Germany through his works on German finance and politics. He was on the Gestapo black list of those to be executed if Britain had been invaded by Germany. In May, 1971, he organised a gathering at London's Reform Club of persons still living, who were also on the list. The gathering included Lord Janner, Lord Shinwell and C. P. (Lord) Snow, who proposed the toast of "The Jews".

## PROFESSOR ERWIN STENGEL

Dr. Erwin Stengel, Professor emeritus of Psychology at Sheffield University, died recently at the age of 71. He was born in Vienna where he was a lecturer of psychology and neurology and also closely co-operated with Sigmund Freud. In 1938 he emigrated to this country. Professor Stengel was president of the International Association for Suicide Prevention, president (1957/58) of the Section of Psychology of the Royal Society of Medicine and chairman (1954) of the Medical Section of the British Psychological Society. In 1971 he was awarded an Hon. M.D. of Sheffield University.

## HENRY ORMOND

The Frankfurt lawyer, Henry Ormond, died recently in his 72nd year. Until 1933 Ormond (formerly Heinrich Oettinger), who was born in Cassel, was a judge in Mannheim. He emigrated to this country and after the war first served with the British Control Commission in Germany. He later established himself as a lawyer in Frankfurt and in this capacity was helpful to many former persecutees in the settlement of their claims. He became particularly well known by his litigation against the I. G. Farben Combine, where he succeeded in obtaining compensation for the former concentration camp prisoners who had been forced labourers of that firm. He was also active in Jewish affairs, especially for the Keren Hayesod and the Israel Bonds drives.

Mr. Eric Ellis passed away on May 17 at the age of 72 after a long period of ill-health bravely borne. In spite of his suffering he carried on his work until the day he was admitted to hospital.

Eric Ellis was born in Calcutta as the scion of the small circle of completely anglicised Baghdadi Jewish, mostly wealthy, families who had integrated into the European British society and who had very little social contact with their Indian compatriots. For many years he was the director of the huge firm of the most prominent member of that group, the late Sir Victor Sassoon. When the Nazis came to power he was among the first to help Jews from Germany to find refuge in India, and became the most active committee member of the Calcutta branch of the "Jüdischer Hilfsverein", later Jewish Relief Association. In this capacity, he assisted many members of our community to obtain visas for India and to establish themselves, quite a number of them in senior positions with E. D. Sassoon. He frequently went to Delhi to negotiate with the authorities. At the beginning of the war, he succeeded in obtaining their speedy release from internment. After having been transferred to Bombay, Mr. Ellis continued his work for the about 2,000 refugees who, by then, had embarked upon an often difficult new life in the Indian Sub-Continent.

When India achieved independence in 1947, the prominent role which Baghdadis had played in commerce and industry gradually came to an end. Their firms were taken over by Indians and the majority of them emigrated. Mr. Ellis settled in London in 1957 and, after some years' work with a commercial firm, was engaged by the Central British Fund to keep the accounts of the Homes. He also became the accountant of the AJR Charitable Trust. In this capacity he also helped many of our members and protégés, free of charge, with their tax matters.

Eric Ellis was the kindest of men, a somewhat "Edwardian gentleman", who was most popular with the staff and the residents of the Homes and with his colleagues in the office at Fairfax Mansions. His death leaves a void in the little team which administers our Association. Our sympathy goes out to his widow.

E.A.L.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

### Birthday

The AJR Club conveys its warmest wishes to Mrs. H. Callmann who celebrated her 80th birthday on June 18th.

### Deaths

**Blank.**—Mrs. Luise Blank (née Lowenberg) passed away peacefully on May 23. Sadly missed by her daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.

**Deutsch.**—Mrs. Stefanie Deutsch passed away peacefully on June 11, aged 92. Beloved mother of Alice Stewart, London, Hedy Koch, New York, son, Georg Deutsch, Los Angeles. Mourned by her daughters, son, son-in-law and grandchildren.

**Goldsmith.**—Miss Margaret Goldsmith, of Morris Feinmann House, Spath Road, Didsbury, Manchester, passed away on June 7 in a nursing home. Deeply mourned by her relatives and friends.

**Heyman.**—Mr. Herman Heyman (formerly Elbing), of 65 Eton Avenue, London, N.W.3, passed away peacefully on June 6, aged 86. Deeply mourned by his wife, Frieda (née Isakowitz), son, Bernhard, daughter-in-law, three grandsons, brother, nieces and nephews (London, Buenos Aires and Stockholm) and numerous friends.

**Koesterich.**—Mrs. Minna Koesterich passed away peacefully in her 89th year at the Heinrich Stahl House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2, on Thursday, May 31. Deeply mourned by her daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.

**Michel.**—Mrs. Margarete Michel (née Zeimann) widow of Heinrich Michel, died on June 15, aged 94, at her home, 7 Brondesbury Court, Willesden Lane, London, N.W.2. Beloved mother of Anne and dear sister of Rosa Baer (Argentine); sadly missed by relatives and friends.

**Ollendorff.**—Dr. Robert Ollendorff died suddenly on June 2, whilst in the U.S.A. Much loved husband of Kirstie, son of Mrs. Grete Ollendorff and brother of Ilse Reich.

**Schiller.**—Mrs. Elise Schiller, of 318 Harrogate Road, Leeds 17, widow of Dr. Moritz Schiller, passed away suddenly on May 6. Sadly missed by her family and friends.

**Slade.**—Mr. Arthur Slade, of 40 Tudor Close, Belsize Avenue, London, N.W.3, passed away on May 22. Deeply mourned by his wife and many friends everywhere.

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### MISSING PERSONS

#### AJR Enquiries

Meyer.—Mrs. Hanna Meyer (née Humberg). Last known address: Glen Gower, St. Asaph, N. Wales.

## LEO BAECK CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Jointly with the Leo Baeck Lodge and the Society for Jewish Study, the AJR held a Leo Baeck Centenary Celebration on May 30 at Hillel House. The atmosphere of the function was determined by the fact that three of the four speakers as well as many members of the audience had known Dr. Baeck personally and cherished happy memories of his unique personality. Rightly, the speakers warned of the misconception of Leo Baeck as a "saint." Instead, in a relaxed way, they described him as an outstanding constructive Jewish thinker, a teacher, a rabbi and a courageous spokesman of German Jewry.

Dr. Eva G. Reichmann recalled the indelible impression Leo Baeck had made on her in her childhood days, when he was rabbi in her home community of Oppeln. It was during his tenure of office in that town that, at the age of 32, Baeck wrote his "Essence of Judaism" by which he emerged as an outstanding thinker among the rising new generation of rabbis. His independent mind also became evident when, without being a Zionist, he was one of the two rabbis who, in 1897, refused to sign the protest resolution of the Allgemeine Rabbiner-Verband against the Zionist movement. His duties as president of the Reichsvertretung were guided by a spirit of defiance against the Nazi regime, reflected in many public utterances, among them a special prayer which was read from the pulpits after the promulgation of the humiliating Nuernberg laws. When he came to England after the war he again let the cause of German Jewry have a generous share in his manifold commitments and agreed to become President of the Council of Jews from Germany, founded by the AJR and its corresponding organisations in Israel and the U.S.A. (It is intended to publish the full text of Dr. Reichmann's address in the Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute. —Ed.)

Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek recalled that he had been inducted by Dr. Baeck when he was installed as rabbi in Dublin and, later, in Liverpool. Humility, he said, was Baeck's most conspicuous quality, and he shunned public adoration. In controversies he was always able to discern the essential, and he exerted a unifying influence.

The next speaker was Rabbi Dr. Solomon Goldman, who also represented the Chief Rabbi at the function. Describing himself as the "odd man out" among the speakers because he had not known Dr. Baeck personally, Dr. Goldman gave an illuminating exposition of Dr. Baeck's teaching. Commenting on Dr. Baeck's "keynote" of "Commandment and Mystery", he said that Baeck gave priority to the commandment. In consistency with the teachings of the prophets he laid, however,

stress on the spiritual postulates, considering the "mitzvot" as subsidiary. Another facet of Baeck's teaching was his interpretation of Judaism as a religion of optimism. This, Dr. Goldman said, may have been easy in 1905, when Baeck wrote his "Essence of Judaism" and when everybody believed in progress. Yet the remarkable thing was that Dr. Baeck stuck to this belief in his work "This People", published 50 years later after the experience of the holocaust. True to the admonition to his people in this book, "Leo Baeck never lost himself", Dr. Goldman concluded.

The final speaker, Rabbi Hugo Gryn, a survivor of Auschwitz, had met Dr. Baeck first during his transitory stay in Theresienstadt. Yet he got to know him closely when, after the war, he became a pupil of his. His recollections included anecdotes, some of them recounted in a humorous way, which showed Baeck as a great teacher who gave guidance without mincing his words when he spotted shortcomings in his pupils' work. He had a most realistic approach to life and it would not be in keeping with his personality if he became a myth. At the same time, his works are the finest heritage of German Jewry and the message of his book "This People," written in Theresienstadt under the greatest technical difficulties, is a legacy of the holocaust such as is Anne Frank's Diary.

The other celebration in London took place on the actual date of the centenary, May 23, under the auspices of Leo Baeck College in the Common Room of the Law Society. The overall theme was "From Generation to Generation", and the participants were Rabbi Dr. Werner van der Zyl, President of the Leo Baeck College; Rabbi Dr. Albert Friedlander, Rabbinic Director of the College; Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs, Chairman of the Academic Committee of the College; Rabbi Dr. Bernard Bamberger (U.S.A.), immediate past President of the World Union of Progressive Judaism. Sir Louis Gluckstein, Q.C., acted as moderator and the proceedings were summed up by Mr. Hyman Arbeid. Those present included the German Ambassador, Herr Karl-Guenther von Hase.

### Messages

In a message addressed to Leo Baeck's granddaughter, Mrs. Marianne Dreyfus (New York), who was unable to attend the function, the President of the Federal German Republic Gustav Heinemann, wrote: "I want to use the occasion of the 100th birthday of your grandfather, Dr. Leo Baeck, to assure you that my fellow citizens and I think of him with reverence and admiration. Leo Baeck was one of the most significant representatives of Judaism in Germany. At the time of greatest oppression, his dignity and courage made him a

symbol of the greatness and strength of Judaism in all the world. With his unshakable faith in the future, he was one of the first to reach out his hand for reconciliation between the Jews and the German people."

The Home Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Robert Carr, in a message wrote that it was fitting publicly to commemorate Leo Baeck in the country of which he became a citizen, and the Chief Rabbi recalled the long-standing friendship of his late father, Dayan Jakobovits, with Leo Baeck in Berlin, "based on admiration for Leo Baeck's outstanding qualities of heart and mind".

### FEDERAL MINISTER SPEAKS IN BERLIN

The Leo Baeck Centenary Celebration in the Berlin Jewish Communal Centre, held under the auspices of the Berlin Jewish Community, the Zentralrat and the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle of the Jews in Germany, was linked with the posthumous award of the Leo Baeck Prize to the late Dr. Hendrick van Dam. The main speaker, Federal Minister of the Interior, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, referred to the contributions made by Jews to Germany during the first third of this century. "The extent of their achievements", he said, "becomes more and more evident in the publications of the Leo Baeck Institute to whose work the Federal Government lends its support." In a detailed survey of the basic principles by which the policy of the Federal German Government is guided, the Minister stated: "Our answer to antisemitism is an unequivocal 'No', also if it presents itself in the disguise of anti-Zionism." There should be a natural relationship between non-Jews and their Jewish fellow-citizens, distorted by neither discrimination nor privileged treatment, he concluded.

Tribute to the memory of Leo Baeck was paid by Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, who described Leo Baeck's work as a thinker, spokesman of German Jewry and outstanding personality. "To meet Leo Baeck was always a great experience, to be remembered with deep gratitude," he said.

Addresses were also delivered by Heinz Galinski, Chairman of the Berlin Jewish Community; Werner Nachmann, Chairman of the Zentralrat; and Rabbi N. P. Levinson. Passages from Leo Baeck's work "Dieses Volk — Juedische Existenz" were read by Rabbi M. Lubliner.

Most leading German newspapers and periodicals published special articles on the occasion of the centenary of Leo Baeck's birth.

### LEO BAECK STRASSE IN DUESSELDORF

The municipality of Duesseldorf has decided to name a street on the previous site of the Fair, which is going to be redeveloped, after Leo Baeck. Dr. Baeck was rabbi of the Duesseldorf community from 1907 to 1912.

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## ARAB INTELLECTUALS IN ISRAEL

Among all the discussions about the Arab population in the Israel-occupied territories, the problems of the Arab Israelis have fallen into oblivion. From a remnant of 150,000 in 1948 which did not take flight like the others, the Arab community in Israel has grown in the past 25 years to 400,000. Only in 1966, 18 years after the establishment of the State, were they given status equal to the majority of the population when the military government rule was lifted.

The big shock for them occurred in Summer 1967, when suddenly their links with the neighbouring Arab countries were re-established and moreover, another million Arabs in the West Bank and the Gaza strip came under Israeli administration. It was then that their identity crisis reached a climax: for the Israeli Jews they belonged to the great Arab family, yet for their Arab cousins they were renegades.

In the past six years 350 Israeli Arabs have been involved in terrorist activities, most of them intellectuals. Indeed, the problem of the educated Arab youth in Israel is far more difficult than that of the Arab peasant or artisan. Only the other day, a survey commissioned by the Prime Minister's office and carried out by the Shiloah Institute of Middle Eastern Studies revealed interesting facts.

The survey shows that of the 328 Arabs and Druze who graduated from college in the past decade, almost half are now teachers, irrespective of what they studied. The very few who are working in other professions, are doctors and lawyers. The 328 graduates represent less than 0.1 per cent of the non-Jewish population in the 'sixties. The comparable figure for the Jewish sector was 1.32 per cent.

Mr. Eli Rekhess, of the Shiloah Institute, who discussed the survey with the Press, thought it spotlighted a situation of frustration which would grow worse. If there are 700 Arab college graduates in Israel today, and another 1,000 Arabs attending college, there would be 2,500 graduates by 1980 with another 2,500 students. These 5,000 young people would be faced with a shortage of jobs that would stand in the way of their full integration into the community. On the one hand, the Arab college graduate finds it difficult to return to the traditional life in the village; on the other, he is barred, partly by lack of training, partly by prejudice born of the Middle East conflict, from making his way into the modern Jewish society of Israel. The Arab intellectual is finding himself restricted because instead of mixing with his Jewish peers, he is faced with the necessity of re-orientating himself to a narrower society,

especially in the villages. Even to rent a room from a Jewish landlady has become more and more difficult for him.

Mr. Shmuel Toledano, the Government adviser on Arab affairs, blames the Middle-East conflict as the major barrier to the full integration: the Israel Arab feels oppressed by the continuing crisis. He is affected on the one hand by the radio and television propaganda directed at him from the neighbouring countries, and on the other, by Israel's reaction to terrorist threats.

Mr. Toledano stated that the Government was now making "vigorous efforts" to secure more jobs for Arab high school and college graduates. A circular has been sent to all civil services and public institutions instructing them to engage Arabs for vacant posts. He noted that an additional reason for the pressure of the Arab intellectuals on the labour market was the weakness, if not absence, of economic and industrial initiative generally among Arabs, and the dearth of jobs in their small enterprises staffed largely by family or clan members. At the same time, all political parties have decided to open their doors to Israeli Arabs.

There is no doubt that the Israeli authorities have recognised that a new Arab leadership is emerging in Israel and challenging the position of the traditional "establishment." How it will cope with the problem of the "dual loyalties" and how it will stand up to the pressure of the extremists from beyond the borders will, to a large extent, depend on the openings and chances which Israel society offers to them.

Gabriele Tergit

### OPFERGANG NACH THERESIENSTADT

Horst Krüger, ein wesentlicher deutscher Schriftsteller, kommt über die Hitlerzeit so wenig weg wie einer von uns. In einem langen Aufsatz im vierten Vierteljahrsheft der Neuen Rundschau von 1972 beschreibt er Prag und das Sudetenland, denn auch der Osten gehört zu seinem Forschungsgebiet. Und dort in Prag erinnert er sich an seinen Wunsch Theresienstadt zu sehen, nicht aus allgemeinen Gründen sondern wegen eines Mädchens, das er geliebt hat. Sie sind zusammen in Eichkamp aufgewachsen, haben Hopse und Himmel und Hölle gespielt. Sie hiess Cordelia, war flink und schmal und schön und heiter, zum Schabernack aufgelegt. Sie war die voreheliche Tochter von Elisabeth Langgässer, die selbst eine Halbjüdin war, und einem jüdischen Professor. Elisabeth Langgässer hatte dann einen so-

nannten Arier geheiratet, und mit ihm drei Kinder. Diese Fünf galten als "arisch", Cordelia als Jüdin. Um ihretwillen war ihr Elternhaus als Judenhaus verfemt, gefährdet mit dem gelben Stern an der Tür. Ein schönes fünfzehnjähriges Mädchen, das ist ein einziger jubelnder Tag, alle sind verliebt, legen Blumen vor die Haustür, es gibt geheime Zeichen, Kuss unter Briefmarke. Aber für Cordelia war alles zu Ende. Sie sah, dass sie es war, die ihrer Familie die Pest brachte. Sie verliess das Haus, sie ging allein in die Grosse Hamburgerstrasse, ins jüdische Sammellager, von dem sie nach Theresienstadt geschickt wurde. Niemand darf urteilen, die Mutter blieb bei den Ungefährdeten, nicht beim gefährdeten Kind.

Menschen wie Cordelia hat einst die katholische Kirche aus sehr tiefen Gründen heilig gesprochen, heilige Cordelia, für sie wurden Altäre errichtet und Kerzen angezündet und verzweifelte Menschen beteten zu ihnen, weil dies das Uebermenschliche ist, sich zu opfern, um fünf Menschen zu helfen. Hat Elisabeth Langgässer eine Vorahnung gehabt, als sie dies Kind Cordelia nannte nach der enterbten Tochter des König Lear?

Krüger beschreibt die Kasernenstadt Josefs II. Er entdeckt ein bisschen was, nicht viel, an einer verfallenen Haustür das deutsche Wort "Lebensmittelausgabe". Aber er stellt die aufregenden Fragen: "Wo hat sie gelebt und wie und mit wem? Wie ist das, wenn ein fünfzehnjähriges Mädchen aus Berlin-Eichkamp hierher kommt? Wie hat es angefangen? Ich such und finde es nicht. Ich finde dich nicht, Cordelia — wo bist du denn? Wo bist du damals gewesen? Wenn ich ehrlich bin, Cordelia — ich kann es mir überhaupt nicht vorstellen, wie du hier lebstest unter andern Verfolgten, unter andern Kindern und Halbwüchsigen, wie du hier arbeitetest, schliefst, vielleicht deine erste Liebe hattest?"

Es sind ungeheure Fragen. Niemand hat es wirklich beschrieben. Ich habe einen langen Brief nach dem Krieg gelesen, da stand vieles darin von dem schrecklichen Ungeziefer, das mit einem Kalken dann verschwand, der Kaffee, der die ganze Nacht auf dem Hof stand, der Hunger und die furchtbaren Hungerkrankheiten, das Gewühl auf den Wegen, wie die Menschen bis zum Zusammenbrechen stehen mussten und die gespenstischen Unterhaltungen, was man für Auschwitz einpackt. Auch Cordelia kam nach Auschwitz. "Du hast überlebt. Du lebst heute immer noch irgendwo in Schweden und willst von Eichkamp, von deiner Familie und auch von mir nichts mehr wissen. Ich verstehe das."

Es steht noch vieles bei Krüger, aber die Geschichte von Cordelia, ist einer der grossen Liebesbriefe. Und dass Krüger, ein Fünfziger, es gewagt hat in einer eiskalten Zeit ihn zu schreiben, dafür sollte jeder Leser dankbar sein.

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