

## AJR

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Margot Pottlitzer

## A SHIP THAT SHAMED THE WORLD?

## The Voyage of the St. Louis

Oral history is an increasingly frequent method of historical research which has added a new dimension to the writing of history. In itself it is nothing new. Since historical events were first recorded for posterity, writers had to a great extent to rely on personal memories of eye-witnesses and participants. Technically tape-recorders have helped to evolve new methods and enabled researchers to collect the testimony of much greater numbers of such persons, and to investigate in depth happenings which, whilst not influencing the course of events, are worth remembering for the light they actually throw on them.

It is obviously a technique fraught with danger. Human memory, alas, is selective and therefore fallible. After a lapse of time it tends to erase certain features and accentuate others, and witnesses are liable to describe the roles they themselves played in the light in which they would want them to be seen and as they would like them to have been played. The longer the lapse in time, the more arbitrary is the selection of the actual witnesses. Some may have just disappeared, others have died or failed in health or are unwilling to revive a painful past. The ones who offer themselves are often outgoing people unable to distinguish between fact and fiction or rather imagination, and the wealth of information they so readily supply, is often likely to distort the final picture. It is therefore essential that the interviewer should have a solid background of unassailable facts and figures, and at the same time a grasp of the intricacies of the situation he is researching. One well-known example of the use to which oral history has been recently put, is Collins' and Lapierre's *O Jerusalem* which was published at the same time as Dan Kurzman's *Genesis 1948* and covers the same ground, the 1948 Jewish War of Independence. They obviously agree on the basic facts, but where they have reconstructed conversations and negotiations from the memories of participants, they nearly always differ. They may have asked different questions or caught their subjects in different moods.

It is therefore with some reservation that one approaches *The Voyage of the Damned* by Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan-Witts (Hodder and Stoughton, London, Sydney, Auckland, Toronto 1974, £3.50). It is a description of the voyage of the *St. Louis*, a large Hapag liner which left Hamburg in May 1939 with 937 Jewish refugees on board. They all held U.S. quota numbers and hoped to await the granting of an American visa in

Cuba for which they had obtained expensive entrance permits. The *St. Louis* was one of many such ships, but it was the largest and met with an unheard-of measure of vicissitudes. When it reached Cuba, the permits turned out to be spurious and, except for a few special cases, one of them an attempted suicide, the passengers were refused permission to land.

## In Search of Refuge

A desperate struggle ensued which involved the governments of many countries, relief organisations, individual politicians and humanitarians, and which was to last for nearly a month. The world press took a lively interest in the situation, and at one point a well-known broadcaster coined the phrase of the *ship that shamed the world*, a phrase that was to be transmitted by the radio stations of a dozen countries. The foremost relief organisation involved was the *American Joint* which sent a special representative to bargain with the Cuban president for the lives of the refugees, but he failed to satisfy the monetary demands on which entrance would have been granted: nearly half a million dollars. Eventually the ship, running short of food and oil, was ordered out of Cuban waters and began to haunt the coasts of American and European countries, until at the very last moment the governments of Belgium, Holland and France offered to admit two thirds of the passengers, whilst the remainder were grudgingly given asylum in Britain. As A. J. Sherman records in his *Island of Refuge* (reviewed in January 1974 of *AJR Information*), this was done at the instigation of Otto M. Schiff, chairman of the German Jewish Aid Committee, but only after a lengthy struggle. He was at first told "that such an acceptance of refugees, none of them vetted, might operate as a precedent which could lead to repetition of a Gestapo-inspired ruse *ad infinitum*." The Home Office only yielded after the Joint and the Central British Fund had agreed to be responsible for those accepted into the United Kingdom. The Home Office stressed that these special arrangements could not be "regarded as a precedent for the reception in future of refugees who may leave Germany before definitive arrangements have been made for their admittance elsewhere."

Thomas and Morgan-Witts provide much stronger arguments used by the Home Office. One official is quoted as stating that "probably a proportion of the passengers are undesirable. It would be easier to reject such

individuals while they were on German soil than to refuse them admission to this country and enforce their return to Germany." They were therefore to be returned to Germany before any promises were made. In the event, the 288 who were allowed to come to this country, were the only ones to be safe. After the outbreak of war many of the others were eventually deported from their countries of refuge and died.

## A Well-Written Record

*Voyage of the Damned* is a well-written and well-researched book which makes fascinating, if harassing reading. The authors have interviewed a great number of survivors, searched the files of organisations and official bodies and consulted a number of diaries and publications. They have given a convincing day-by-day picture of the plight of these unfortunate people haunted by secret fears even during the first few days of exultation, and they have succeeded to rescue from oblivion one single event among the many Jewish tragedies of that time.

There remain the reservations I mentioned before. With all good intentions and with the highest regard for truth, it is almost impossible for anyone who had not himself lived through those troubled times to recreate the atmosphere, and to sort fact from fiction. The captain of the ship, Schroeder, is undoubtedly the hero of the story if one is allowed to use the term. He did his best to lift the cloud of oppression from the moment the ship left Hamburg and inspired his crew to look after the passengers with compassion and humanity. After the enforced departure from Cuba he did his utmost—disregarding orders from his superiors—to find asylum for them and he is reported to have planned to run the *St. Louis* aground close to Beachy Head in Sussex, set fire to her and evacuate the passengers rather than return them to Germany.

Even so it is difficult to believe that during the voyage he should have repeatedly threatened the NS *Ortsgruppenleiter* on board the liner, that he should have accused him of mutinous behaviour and survived not only that particular voyage of the *St. Louis*, but quite a few later ones. According to the authors, this party official Schiendick had been placed on the ship, together with six other party members disguised as firemen, in order to obtain espionage material from an *Abwehr* official, i.e. a spy, in Havana and managed to do so in spite of close observation by American counter-espionage agents, F.B.I. men, etc. It is all just possible, but where did the authors find this material? Sir Herbert Emerson, High Commissioner for Refugees, is said to have been Chairman of the International Committee on political refugees.

Earlier in the book a Düsseldorf professor is said to have picked up his visa at the Stuttgart *Oberrat*, the federation of the Jewish congregations in Württemberg. It is

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## A Ship That Shamed the World?

Continued from page 1

conceivable that they had got hold of some of the spurious Cuban visas, but it is not very likely. It is far more likely that the professor went to Stuttgart to the U.S. Consulate where all affidavits for Southern and Western Germany had to be lodged before the quota numbers were issued. What I find difficult to credit however, is a passage which reads: "Professor Weiler and his wife had been bewildered to find at Oberrat's offices Gestapo officers working alongside Jews... (They) owed their visas to an extraordinary alliance between Oberrat and the Gestapo. Oberrat held records dating back to the 17th century. They contained a mass of detailed personal information on hundreds of thousands of German Jews, information of continuing interest to the Gestapo. Since 1933 the Nazis had allowed the agency to become a servicing organisation for emigrants, and Gestapo officers were attached to Oberrat not only to facilitate their exodus, but to consult the records when required". The story, whatever element of distorted truth it may contain, sounds as unlikely as another one where the Ortsgruppenleiter insists that a Jew who has died on board, should be wrapped in a swastika flag for his burial at sea, or where the same Ortsgruppenleiter objects to the removal of a Führer portrait from a room in which a Jewish religious service is to be held.

It would help if the authors had revealed the sources of such items of information. They give an impressive list of the personalities and organisations they interviewed or consulted, but very few items of information are attributed to those who supplied them, and these few are usual personal trivia. The danger inherent in this kind of oral history seems to lie in the fact that too much rather than too little information is obtained, and that it still requires critical scholarship to process such information. Nevertheless, the authors deserve thanks for having provided a valuable record of one event that is worth retelling to a world only too eager to forget.

### PEN CONGRESS IN JERUSALEM

The 39th International PEN Congress was held in Jerusalem last December. It was originally planned for 1973, but had to be postponed because of the Yom Kippur War. The Congress was attended by about 400 authors from West European, Latin American and several Asiatic countries. However, the Eastern European countries, with the exception of Romania, were not represented. The largest delegations were those of the German Federal Republic (35) and Israel (87). In his opening address, Heinrich Boell, referring to the venue of the Congress, said that since its expulsion, the Jewish people had been "bodenlos" but never "sprachlos". The subject of the Congress was "Cultural Heritage and Creativity in Contemporary Literature".

One of the resolutions, passed at the end of the Congress called on members to exercise their influence on their national representatives to Unesco for a reversal of the Unesco decisions against Israel. "The international PEN Executive regards the Unesco decisions to discriminate against Israel... as an offence to the very cause of culture". Another resolution called on Arab and Israeli writers to influence the statesmen of their respective countries in the interest of peace.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### UNESCO

As a result of the two anti-Israel resolutions recently passed by Unesco, Israel has suspended payment of her biennial \$25,000 (about £10,850).

Three Nobel Prize-winners representing the American intellectual community have warned Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the UN Secretary-General, that the resolutions "will interfere with free intellectual discourse across frontiers" and "gravely compromise the functioning of the UN agency". The three who met Dr. Waldheim were Professor Kenneth Arrow, Dr. Julius Axelrod and Professor Hans Bethe. Professor Arrow and Dr. Axelrod are Jews.

More than 500 prominent intellectuals and scientists in France and many other countries, including 20 Nobel Prize-winners, have signed a declaration boycotting all links with Unesco until it rescinds the "unjust and anti-Israel resolutions". The declaration was issued in France, Switzerland, Belgium and America simultaneously, and a campaign has been opened to isolate Unesco until it cancels its anti-Israel decisions.

The British Government decided to review Britain's contribution to the Unesco budget "in the light of what happened". This was made known by the Minister for Overseas Development, Mrs. Judith Hart, in a letter to Mr. Eric Moonman, MP for Basildon, one of a group of Labour MPs who expressed disgust at the use of UN specialised agencies for political purposes and anti-Israel propaganda.

A group of 80 composers, conductors and performers have given a pledge to boycott Unesco until it reverses its decisions on Israel. The signatories include Artur Rubinstein, Vladimir Horowitz, Leonard Bernstein, Isaac Stern, Marion Anderson, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Valery and Galina Panov and Zubin Mehta.

### THE POPE AND JERUSALEM

In a message addressed to his cardinals, Pope Paul VI spoke of Jerusalem as "the centre of love and centuries-old longings" of the Jews. He sent greetings of peace to "this generous and tormented region, and to all other parts of the world where conflicts and violence continue to disturb civil and harmonious living".

The Pope's reference to Jerusalem as the "centre of love and centuries-old longings" of the Jews is believed, by Jewish circles, to be unprecedented.

### GOLDA: "WOMAN OF THE YEAR"

Golda Meir has been named the most admired woman in 1974 in a nation-wide public opinion poll in the United States. The runner-up was Mrs. Betty Ford, wife of the President of the United States, whose courage in a trying operation for cancer had moved millions all over the world. The third place was taken by Mrs. Pat Nixon, wife of the former President. Mrs. Meir was first in a similar poll at the end of 1972.—(JTA)

### JEWES AND CHRISTIANS

#### Vatican Document

The Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews was set up by Pope Paul VI last October, headed by Cardinal Jan Wilibrands. A document giving guidelines and suggestions issued by the commission, uncompromisingly condemns all forms of antisemitism and discrimination "which, in any case, the dignity of the human person alone would suffice to condemn".

The commission suggests that now is the time to propose some concrete suggestions born of experience, in the hope that they will bring into actual existence in the life of the Church the intentions expressed in the Declaration made by the Second Vatican Council in 1965 on the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions. That declaration recognised that Christian and Jew had drifted so far apart as hardly to know each other. The new document from the Vatican Council "provides an opportunity to open or to continue a dialogue with a view to better mutual understanding".

The commission asks also for meetings of experts to study together the many problems deriving from fundamental convictions, and suggests that there be "a common meeting in the presence of God, in prayer and silent meditation", in the belief that worship can help to bind Jews and Christians together. Sermons on liturgical texts should be carefully thought out so as not to distort their meaning, especially if they seem to show the Jewish people in an unfavourable light. Information about the Jewish background of Christianity and also the Jewish tradition should be included in Christian education and should be the subject of Christian research, and joint work for social justice is commended.

Diaspora Jewish leaders, though with reservations, have welcomed the Vatican's new guidelines. Israeli leaders have, however, voiced sharp criticism, pointing out that the Church still did not recognise the historical link of the Jewish people with the land of Israel and the people's right to possess that land.

Stating that the "urgent condemnation of antisemitism and discrimination could not be more timely", the International Jewish Committee on Inter-Religious Consultations regrets that the guidelines fail to take note of the "central role of peoplehood in Jewish religious thought and of the consequent religious character of the historic attachment of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel". The statement goes on to say that the suggestion that Judaism look outside its own doctrines and dogmas for fulfilment is not acceptable for Jews. The call for joint social action is thought to be the most promising area in which Christians and Jews can seek the closest co-operation.

In London, the Vatican declaration has been welcomed somewhat cautiously by Chief Rabbi Jakobovits, and unreservedly by the Council of Reform and Liberal Rabbis.

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# HOME NEWS

## NEW YEAR HONOURS

The New Year Honours List includes a peerage for Sir Rudy Sternberg, chairman of the British Agricultural Export Council. He has built up a group of companies in the plastics industry since coming to London from Germany in the mid-1930s and also been successful in promoting East-West trade.

Knighthoods were conferred on Dr. Harold Montague Finnieston, chairman of the British Steel Corporation; Alderman Louis Sherman, a former Mayor of Hackney and chairman of the London Boroughs Association; and John Woolf, the film producer.

Mr. Joel Barnett, MP, chief secretary to the Treasury, was made a Privy Councillor.

Other honours include:  
CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath): L. S. Berman, deputy secretary, Department of Industry; P. E. Lazarus, deputy secretary, Department of Environment.

GBE: Lord Rothschild.  
CBE: Michael Sieff, joint managing director of Marks & Spencer.

OBE: Ernest Ettinghausen, controller of stamps, Board of Inland Revenue. Mr. Ettinghausen is also active in Jewish affairs; until his recent retirement he was for many years honorary secretary of the Jewish Historical Society.

MBE: The Rev. William Katz (formerly Willy Katz, till 1939 teacher and cantor in Cassel), of New South Wales, for community services. He was the founding minister of the North Shore Synagogue (1940), today one of the largest congregations in Sydney.

## LORD FISHER ON SURVIVAL OF ANGLO-JEWRY

Lord Fisher of Camden, president of the Board of Deputies, speaking at a meeting of the B'nai B'rith in London stated that in his view the future and, indeed, the survival of Anglo-Jewry, could only be ensured by a fully fledged system of Jewish education. This system, from primary to university levels, would be the British equivalent of the American Yeshiva University and of a Hebrew counterpart to the French Lycée in London.

The majority of the community did not attend synagogue regularly and a growing minority were Jews in name only. The community was Israel-centred but only about a third of British Jewry contributed regularly to the Joint Israel Appeal and comparatively few had emigrated to Israel. The cohesion and co-operation within the community, at present derived from its deep concern for Israel, would also weaken once the Jewish State was no longer in danger. Lord Fisher felt that the only encouragement were the faint but unmistakable signs that many Jews with only a vague sense of Jewish identity were now groping instinctively for some Jewishness.

## LSE FELLOWS

Eleven new honorary fellows who have been elected by the London School of Economics include Sir Max Rayne, Professor Leo Rosten (the author and social scientist) and Dr. Helen Suzman, the South African Progressive MP. The fellowships are as a rule awarded to former students of the school who have attained distinction in the arts, science or public life.

## WOMAN CITY ALDERMAN

The election last year of Mrs. Edwina Coven, a 53-year-old fashion consultant, as the City's first woman alderman in 800 years, was twice vetoed. She has now been chosen to be the City's first deputy for the alderman. Expressing her delight at the breakthrough, Mrs. Coven said she firmly believed that women should have equal opportunity and treatment, and that a way had been opened for others who would not be long following.

## ACADEMIC "THANK-YOU BRITAIN" FUNCTION

Three Jewish Nobel Prize Laureates who had come to this country as victims of Nazi persecution, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of The Maccabaeans, the association of Jewish professionals. They were Sir Ernst Chain, Sir Hans Krebs (both of them patrons of the AJR's "Thank-You Britain" Fund of 1964), and Sir Bernard Katz. Replying to the tribute to the guests, extended by Professor John Yudkin, Sir Ernst Chain said that all three Prize winners had lived and studied in Berlin which had enjoyed an unparalleled standard of culture between 1920 and 1930. That culture had been destroyed by Hitler and Germany had never recovered. After thanking Britain for helping the refugees, he added that the impact of Jewish immigration in the sciences and in the technological field had been tremendous. No country which had opened its doors to Jewish refugees had reason to regret that decision.

Giving a warning that in times of difficulty Jews were always more exposed, Sir Ernst said that vigilance was very necessary. "If our values are threatened let us fight for them while there is still a chance of winning the fight. Do not let us wait until it is too late, as it was for us in 1933."

## SCURRILOUS LSE ARTICLE

A recent issue of the London School of Economics students' magazine, The Beaver, contained extracts from a feature by a Polish Jewish professor at Lvov University under the title "Zionism — another word for Nazism". Among other things the article declares that Zionists in order to achieve their goal will "collaborate with absolutely anyone to bargain with millions of Jewish lives and to betray their own people without compunction".

Jewish students at the LSE complained to the university authorities, and parents of Jewish students deluged the offices of the Board of Deputies with protests. The board has written to the Rector of the Lvov University drawing attention to the article, and the LSE Jewish Society issued all students with a leaflet containing information about the author. The Beaver promised the society space to reply to the article.

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# ANGLO-JUDAICA

## Declining Morals

At the annual meeting of the Finchley Council of Christians and Jews at Finchley Synagogue, Chief Rabbi Jakobovits spoke of declining moral and spiritual standards the world over. Although there was no international war at present, war was still rampant in our streets, homes and skies in the form of bombings, hijackings, vandalism and muggings, said Dr. Jakobovits. Life was threatened through atomic bomb tests, and there was a legitimate cheapening of life through abortions and euthanasia. "Unless religious teachings can restore the sanctity for life, we face catastrophe".

The general secretary of the CCJ, the Rev. Peter Jennings, was present at the meeting, together with his predecessor, the Rev. W. W. Simpson, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Barnet.

## Jewish studies

Meeting in London, 32 scholars have founded the "British Association for Jewish Studies". The principal aim of the association is "to promote in the UK the scholarly study of Jewish culture in all its aspects". Membership is open to scholars concerned with the academic pursuit of Jewish studies.

The committee's first president is Dr. Geza Vermes, reader in Jewish studies and professorial fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford. Secretary and treasurer respectively are Mrs. Tessa Rajak (Reading University) and Dr. N. L. Rabinovitch (Jews' College). The committee consists of scholars from various British universities, including Dr. L. Jacobs of Leo Baeck College.

## Jews' Temporary Shelter

The president of the Jews' Temporary Shelter, Major Albert Joseph, was at the annual meeting presented with a framed certificate recording the planting of 150 trees in the Royal Forest in Israel. The emeritus Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie, made the presentation commemorating Major Joseph's 75th birthday.

The shelter, now in Willesden, during the past year helped a number of Russian emigrants, some of whom had found their way to Israel but wanted to settle elsewhere. It was stressed that the shelter was anxious to cooperate with other social welfare institutions.

## Help for Jewish Free School

At the speech day of the JFS Comprehensive School, Camden Town, the headmaster, Dr. E. S. Conway, disclosed that between 10 and 14 per cent of the 1,450 pupils receive free meals at school and financial help to enable them to participate fully in school life. There are also a number of pupils who receive help from a £7,000 anonymous donation to assist promising pupils from poor homes to continue their education in the sixth form. Many of the 140 pupils who received free meals and other financial assistance came from broken or one-parent homes, and some originated from North Africa and Asia.

Dr. Conway said that much of the religious education given at school was "quite ineffectual" since parents were unable to support their children in the search for religious satisfaction and in their study of Hebraic culture. It was therefore proposed to hold appropriate courses for parents at the school's youth centre. As an aid to the learning of Hebrew and Jewish culture, the linguistically able and the religiously committed at the JFS were being given an opportunity to spend six months at an Israeli school, and the first group of 17 pupils had left for Givat Washington High School last September.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## WOMEN ELECTED IN U.S.A.

Mrs. Ilene Weinreb is the first woman to be elected mayor of a San Francisco area city. Hayward, California, has a total population of 100,000 only a few of whom are Jews. Married to a dermatologist and the mother of three daughters, Mrs. Weinreb was brought up in a strong Jewish background.

Also the first woman to head the world's second largest Jewish community of some 535,000 members is Mrs. Lawrence Jay Weinberg, who has been installed president of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles. Mrs. Weinberg is also the vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal's women's division.

## ARGENTINE

### Antisemitic Police Chief

Commander Benigno Mario Ardanaz, the police chief of Rio Negro province some 400 miles south-west of Buenos Aires, has resigned. An order of the day issued to his men to wage "war against Jews, Freemasons and Communists so as to disrupt their diabolical plans" was severely reprimanded by the provincial Government. The Governor of Rio Negro province was called to Buenos Aires for consultations with the Argentine Interior Minister, Dr. Alberto Rocamora. Later Commander Ardanaz said that he had resigned at Dr. Rocamora's request, alleging that the Minister had been pressed to this request by Daia, the representative organisation of Argentine Jews.

## AUSTRIA'S ABSTENTION AT U.N.

### Criticism by Opposition Party

Austria's stand in abstaining from voting during the anti-Israel resolutions at the UN and Unesco is regarded by many as pro-Arab, and has caused some criticism. Mr. Karl Schleizer, the leader of Austria's Opposition People's Party, in Parliament accused Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the Chancellor, of wrecking "nearly three decades of bipartisan foreign policy" by his "humanitarian support for a terrorist organisation". The Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs said that Dr. Kreisky had changed Austria's attitude at the UN on the Middle East issue. Mr. Kurt Fiedler declared that previous Austrian Governments would have voted against anti-Israel resolutions.

Mr. Karl Czernetz, a Socialist MP of Jewish origin, said that all Austria was attempting to do was to be "a moderating influence" at the UN.

## NETHERLANDS

### German Helper of Jews Honoured

Every year, Yad Vashem holds a ceremony in The Hague in honour of those Dutch men and women who had saved Jews at the time of the occupation. This year, one of the 34 men and women awarded by Yad Vashem included a German anti-Nazi emigrant, Wolfgang Fromel, who, though himself a persecutee, hid young Jewish people in his house in Heerengracht, Amsterdam. The ceremony was also attended by two of his friends, whom he had helped, Professor Bock, who teaches Germanistics at London University, and Manuel Goldschmidt, co-editor with Fromel of the literary periodical "Castrum Peregrini". One of the speakers at the function was the Dutch Prime Minister, de Uyl, who compared the isolation of the Jewish people in those days with the present situation of Israel and criticised France for having paved the way for the PLO into the UN. He gave the assurance that the Netherlands would always endorse Israel's right of existence.

## FRANCE

### Antisemitic Campaign

The antisemitic atmosphere now prevalent in France is said to emanate with antisemitic rumours from some high officials seeking to counter what they regard as a Jewish campaign against France's pro-Arab policy. Leaflets circulating in Paris accuse the Jews of dominating the press, radio and TV, and demand Government action.

### Murder Verdict Shock

In the Paris Assize Court Pierre Goldman, a Jewish extreme Left-wing militant, was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of armed robbery, misbehaviour and murder. Goldman admitted the first two charges but strenuously denied that he murdered two women assistants in a chemist's shop in Paris in December, 1969. Goldman participated with the extreme Left in the 1968 May "revolution". To help the extreme Left obtain money to organise mass meetings, he took part with extremist elements in armed robberies in Paris. He was arrested on the basis of a mysterious report by an unidentified man who told the police that Goldman was responsible for the murder of the two women. The governor of Fresnes prison told the court that in the five years he spent in gaol before his trial he was a model prisoner, and that Goldman could safely rejoin society. He had helped to quell a gaol riot, had studied philosophy and had taught the subject to other prisoners, and he had obtained degrees in Spanish and literature.

Public opinion in France was deeply shocked at the unexpected verdict and sentence. Prominent writers and academicians, including Joseph Kessel, Robert Aron, Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, joined the protests. Many lawyers have hinted that the harsh sentence was imposed not because Goldman was found guilty of murder, but because he is a Jew and had Left-wing sympathies.

### "Butcher of Lyons"

A La Paz judge last year reported that Klaus Altmann of Bolivia had admitted that he is Klaus Barbie, the former Lyons Gestapo chief. The Bolivian Supreme Court has ruled that Altmann cannot be sent back to France, where he faces the death penalty, because there is no extradition agreement between the two countries.

Barbie, called the "butcher of Lyons", was sentenced to death *in absentia* by a French military court after the Second World War for torturing and killing many French Resistance fighters, including Jews, and hundreds of children, in the Lyons area.

### No German Prosecution

In July last year President Giscard d'Estaing of France publicly criticised the delay in ratifying the 1971 West German-Franco agreement for the prosecution in West Germany of German citizens sentenced for Nazi crimes by French courts *in absentia* after the Second World War. In reply Mr. Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and other political leaders said that the accord would be ratified by the end of the year.

This undertaking has as yet not been implemented. The legal committee of the Bundestag approved ratification against the opposition of the Christian Democratic members in October, and the instrument was then passed to the foreign affairs committee where it is again held up by the Christian Democratic representatives, who want it amended. It is understood that opposition to the measure is mounting on the grounds that trials associated with Nazi crimes should end, and that an increasing majority of the West German public support this view.

# JEWRY IN THE EAST

## PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

The KGB warned Soviet Jews in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and other main cities not to present a petition to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow for the release of more than 30 prisoners of conscience. The petition was to be presented on the fourth anniversary of the death sentences on Edward Kuznetsov, the husband of Silva Zalmanson, and Mark Dymshitz at the first Leningrad "hijacking" trial, later commuted to 15 years' imprisonment. On that day, prisoners of conscience and sympathisers in different parts of the Soviet Union fasted. More than 1,000 people attended a demonstration marking the fourth anniversary of the trial, after a hunger strike by relatives of "Prisoners of Zion". Two Leningrad Jews planning to participate in the presentation of the petition were arrested, another Leningrad Jew was taken to hospital and a fourth disappeared.

## PROTESTS AT SENTENCES

Dr. Mikhail Shtern, the 56-year-old Jewish endocrinologist accused of swindling and accepting bribes, has been sentenced by a Vinitsa court to eight years' imprisonment in a strict régime labour camp. His lawyer submitted in the appeal he has lodged with the Ukrainian Supreme Court that the verdict of "guilty" is a judicial error. Dr. Shtern maintained his innocence throughout, and his defence counsel pointed out to the court that nearly all the witnesses who gave evidence at the trial had failed to bear out the prosecution's claims.

Dr. Shtern's family addressed an open letter to the United States Senate saying that his trial violated the Soviet-American agreement on trade and emigration, and that the Soviet case against Dr. Shtern was fabricated after his two sons had applied to emigrate to Israel.

A telegram protesting against the sentence was sent to President Podgorny on behalf of 3,200 British and Continental doctors.

The Supreme Court of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic has rejected the appeal of Mr. Mikhail Leviev, a former Moscow shop manager sentenced to death for an alleged economic crime. Three other men charged with him, all non-Jews, were given gaol sentences. His defence counsel has now appealed to the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union. Mr. Leviev, who was accused of misappropriation of State property, speculation and bribery, admitted the speculation charge.

A protest telegram to the Soviet authorities on behalf of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry was sent by Mr. Hugh Dykes, the chairman, and Mr. Greville Janner, QC, the hon. secretary, for the release of Dr. Shtern. The telegram also appealed for clemency for Mr. Leviev.

## CZECH PURGE

The activities of Czechoslovakian Jewry have been curbed by several dismissals. Mr. Frantisek Fuchs and Mr. Ota Heitlinger, the chairman and secretary of the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia and Moravia have been dismissed. Dr. Bedrich Bach is now acting chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia and Moravia and Dr. Rudolf Iltis, 72, a former secretary, has been reappointed to this post.

The dismissals were followed by that of Mr. Pavel Kollman, the chairman of the Prague community leadership, whose post was taken by Dr. Arno Steiner. According to Prague reports, the purge in Czechoslovakia was preceded by a detailed investigation of the community's honorary officers and their employees by Ministry of the Interior officials. The immediate cause of the purge was said to be the refusal of the honorary officers to sign an anti-Israel and anti-Zionist statement as suggested by the Ministry of the Interior, calling for support for the return of "expelled Palestinians" to the State of Israel.

J. W. Bruegel

# NO END TO THE HITLER WAVE

## Joachim Fest's New Hitler Biography

It is not surprising that the publication of any new Hitler biography invariably raises the question as to whether the energy required for such a vast undertaking is not wasted in view of the fact that in Alan Bullock's "Hitler: Study in Tyranny" we have a masterpiece that looked like the final work in the matter. However, as the English edition of Joachim Fest's Hitler biography (Joachim C. Fest: "Hitler", translated from the German by Richard and Clara Winston, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London 1974, 844 pp., £5.25) has recently appeared, we have to judge it on its own merits.

The author, born 1926, became first known through his brilliant portraits of the leading Nazi gangsters in his book "The Face of the Third Reich" (1972). A biography of Hitler is, by the very nature of things, bound to be also a piece of contemporary history and this also applies to Fest's massive volume. The often told story is, in general, very well retold (and excellently translated), but sometimes one cannot help feeling that the "Lust zu fabulieren" got the better of the author who could have deleted many passages of lesser relevance. The prologue and the conclusion consist of well formulated truisms and even the rest of the book does not open up new vistas or acquaint us with facts hitherto unknown. That Hitler had no Jewish grandfather was already established by Werner Maser who had also found out (overlooked by Fest) that a Jew called Frankenberg who, according to some quarters, was supposed to be Hitler's grandfather, had never existed in Graz—incidentally, the omniscient "Times" reviewer is wrong in calling Fest's book "the first comprehensive German life of Hitler since 1945", as H. B. Gisevius' Hitler biography (1963) and Werner Maser's (1971) were published before and are mentioned in Fest's bibliography.

One serious objection to Fest's interpretation of history is that he, a man of firm democratic convictions, blindly accepts the Versailles demagoguery of the German nationalists as if their accusations against Versailles were undeniable facts. Under the then circumstances it was understandable that even the democratic parties of the Weimar Republic conducted a campaign against the Versailles Treaty, as they were naturally anxious to improve the fate of their state and their people. Even so, Eduard Bernstein right from the beginning expressed the opinion that 9/10th of the Treaty provisions were justified, and in retrospect much of the old criticism would have to be revised. To proclaim, as Fest does, that the right of self-determination was quietly dropped in the peace settlement whenever it might have worked to the advantage of the Germans, betrays a basic misunderstanding of the facts of international life. Whenever self-determination is granted to one people the self-determination of another becomes necessarily limited. Lloyd George was right in his "The Truth about the Peace Treaties" (London 1938, vol. II, p.751) by stating that "the Treaties of Paris constitute the greatest measure of unconditional liberation of subject nations ever achieved by a war settlement on record". Fest's theory that "a large part of Hitler's early successes in foreign affairs were gained by his posing as a firm

adherent of Woodrow Wilson's principles (of self-determination)" is wrong from beginning to end. Hitler only posed as a firm adherent of Wilson's principles as he interpreted them for his purposes, and his early successes in foreign affairs were gained through the initial unwillingness of the democracies to risk a war which in the end, though, they could not avoid.

The same misconceptions make themselves felt in Fest's description of the Sudeten crisis. It is simply not true that "3.5 million Sudeten Germans had felt oppressed ever since the foundation of the (Czechoslovak) Republic", as until 1935 the German democratic parties of Czechoslovakia taking part in its government since 1926 represented 80 per cent of the German population. There are other mistakes in Fest's book too. For him the short-lived "Neue Basler Zeitung", a Nazi paper, created and maintained by money from Berlin, is simply "a Swiss newspaper" and the contention that in March 1938 Hitler decided to take military action against Austria only "urged on by Göring" (p. 545) is likewise not borne out by the facts (p. 547).

Furthermore, the author says that Ernst v. Weizsaecker, State Secretary in the German Foreign Ministry, was head of an alleged resistance group in that office, but all that Weizsaecker did, though with commendable courage, was to dissuade Hitler from waging war, arguing that he could achieve his aims by "peaceful" means. The unfortunate Dr. Hacha was forced by Hitler "to place confidently the fate of the Czech people and country in the hands of the Fuehrer of the German Reich", but the key-word "confidently" is missing in Fest's quotation from the relevant document (p. 571)—among other mistakes that crept into his story. Walter Hewel (not a very trustworthy witness) quoted Hacha as telling Hitler that at a meeting he (Hacha) had had with Benes there had been misunderstandings; in Fest's quotation of Hewel the misunderstandings ("Missverstaeandnisse" in the original German) have become a "quarrel".

For a book of that size there are furthermore some astonishing omissions. The

name of Dahlerus, the go-between between Berlin and London in 1939, to whom on 26th September Hitler made some typical Hitlerian remarks, is not mentioned at all. While all other attempts to get rid of Hitler are carefully registered, the attempted assassination in the Bürgerbräu-Keller in Munich in November 1939, to which Bullock in a much shorter book devotes more than a page, only gets two lines and the name of Georg Elser who, over a long period, had carefully prepared the bomb that should have liberated Germany and the world, is not mentioned at all.

In spite of all these and other possible objections Fest's book is an admirable achievement and, last but not least, immensely readable and beautifully illustrated.

## THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

Hamburg now possesses an Ernst Deutsch Theatre. Named after the celebrated actor, it is a relatively small theatre in the St. Pauli district, but the naming can be considered a gratifying gesture.

Berlin. At Christmas, Werner Finck, 72, read from his book "Alter Narr — was nun?", excerpts of which were broadcast on German and Austrian TV. The author, now more active as a writer than as an actor, has lost none of his sharp wit and intelligent biting humour.

Zuerich. Ephraim Kishon, the Israeli satirist, who describes himself as "born in Hungary, reborn in Israel", surprised the Swiss public with the New Year's Eve premiere of a "Romeo and Juliet" play called "Es war doch die Lerche". Although cleverly written, it had a mixed reception.

Salzburg. Writing autobiographies does not seem a rare happening these days. One of the latest books (not yet published) will deal with the "eventful" life of film actress, Lida Baarova, now in Salzburg. Born in Czechoslovakia and at one time married to actor Gustav Froehlich, she belonged to Dr. Goebbels' most intimate circle of friends. According to advance notices, she will reveal the full truth, "having achieved the necessary maturity and seeing things from a distance which is so important to achieve an unbiased presentation". The book may be of a sort of negative interest, yet provide discussion material for those who remember the hey-days of German "UFA" films.

S.B.

### HEINE MUSEUM IN DUESSELDORF

The City of Duesseldorf has rented a 200-year-old, spacious house in the Bolker Strasse, the street where Heine was born in 1797, to serve as a Heine Museum. The building will also accommodate the former Heine Institute (together with the Heine Archives), as well as rooms for the preparation of the forthcoming critical edition of Heine's works and a hall for cultural functions. The speakers at the recent opening ceremony of the Museum were the author Hermann Kesten and Dr. Eberhardt Galley, director of the Heine Institute and editor of the Heine Year Books.

### ELSE LASKER-SCHUELER STAMP

To mark the year 1975 as the "International Year of the Woman", the Federal German Post Offices issued a series of stamps depicting the portraits of four outstanding women. One of them is the poetess Else Lasker-Schueler, the three others the authoresses Annette Kolb, Ricarda Huch and Gertrud von Le Fort.

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## A HISTORY OF GERMAN INDEMNIFICATION FOR NAZI CRIMES

The crimes committed during the Nazi period in Germany against Jews, political opponents and a surprisingly large number of persons in neither of these categories are without equal in human history. So is its sequel, the indemnifying legislation in the Federal Republic and its implementation. Numerous historians have described the many facets of persecution between 1933 and 1945. There was, however, until very recently no attempt to write a history of indemnification. History is, of course, written after the events. Indemnification is as yet not fully completed. Governmental agencies as well as the courts are still busy and will, it must be feared, require several years to complete their jobs. But the end may be said to be in sight. One branch of the law is certainly very near to completing its task. This is the individual restitution of identifiable property by private individuals, i.e., the return of houses, factories, shares, etc., from those who acquired them during the persecution period from persecutees. This field of the law may therefore well be considered to be ripe for the historian's pen.

Dr Walter Schwarz, formerly of Berlin, was for many years one of the most outstanding specialists in the field of the restitution law. In addition to a large practice devoted mainly to representing the interests of restitution claimants, he edited that most indispensable tool of all workers in this branch of law, the "Rechtsprechung zum Wiedergutmachungsrecht". He is well-known as a most distinguished writer and scholar in this field, and, in particular as one whose mode of expression is always distinguished by clarity as well as by elegance and forthrightness of style. To greet him in the newly-found role of a historian of the law in which he laboured with so much devotion and success is therefore a particular pleasure. A large book on "Restitution according to Allied Legislation", of which he is the author, is the first of a multi-volume work which will deal with the entire indemnification law.\* Editor-in-chief of this vast enterprise is a combination that at first glance appears somewhat unlikely, i.e., the Federal German Minister of Finance and Dr. Schwarz. One still remembers the time when some of the Ministers of Finance were by no means forthcoming in supporting the indemnification legislation. Dr. Schwarz's volume carries in addition to a preface by the Federal Chancellor then in office, Willy Brandt, a second preface by the former Minister of Finance and present Federal Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt. This, one may well think, indicates a profound change of heart.

Official sanction may well cause some potential readers to fear that they are being offered one of the all too many dry-as-dust "official" publications, which—unread—are to be found in numerous public and few private libraries. Such fears are wholly groundless. Dr Schwarz has given us a lively and highly personal account, which keeps his readers' interest alive from cover to cover. He begins by telling the story of the creation of the Military Government Laws No. 59 in

the U.S., its counterpart in the British Zone of occupation and the corresponding law in West Berlin. The fact that this first and all-important step on the road to indemnification had to be taken by the Allied Military Governments constitutes a dark spot on the history of post-war German attitude to indemnification. Rightly Dr Schwarz stresses the great merit which the American administration in Germany acquired by its pioneering effort. The British Government—a Labour Party government with Ernest Bevin as Foreign Secretary in charge of German affairs—took an unconscionably long time before following this example. Unfortunately Dr Schwarz was unable to tell the full story of either the grounds for this hesitation or the manner in which it was in the end overcome. As all relevant documents are still inaccessible and the lips of those in the know who are still alive remain sealed, nothing else was possible. Few will disagree with his view that the British Law has brought some improvements over the U.S. Law, but did not cure all its defects. That at least some measure of harmonisation between the British Zone, the U.S. Zone and Berlin was achieved, was, no doubt, to be welcomed.

The legislative problems that had to be met were not simple. No doubt, nearly all victims had sold their properties involuntarily. But there were degrees of unwillingness. Few had got full value for what they had given up. But again there were differences in the degree to which they had been put at a disadvantage. The acquirers had sometimes

transferred the property to third parties, who knew nothing of the original owner. They had mortgaged houses, amalgamated the newly-acquired factory with their own plant or merged the company bought by them with that of a third party. Nearly all had paid something for what they had acquired and, of course, demanded repayment. There was no precedent in any earlier legislation for these and a good many other pressing problems. The Allied legal staffs thought in terms of their own respective laws. Yet the Restitution law had to work against the background of German law. Nobody could in such circumstances expect from the Allied legislators a perfect solution of all or even most of these pressing questions.

The new legislation naturally met with a great deal of hostility. Nothing else could be expected from those who had to give up what they believed to have lawfully, though in many, but by no means in all, cases immorally, been acquired. But the fight against restitution, although well organised, remained totally unsuccessful. It may have swayed the attitude of one or the other district court in individual cases. But it could not halt, though it undoubtedly delayed, the implementation of the Allied restitution programme.

Having thus disposed of the creation and the birth pangs of the restitution legislation, Dr Schwarz proceeds to set forth in considerable detail the individual rules of the various laws and of their interpretation by the Allied and German courts. This part of his work will, no doubt, be of particular interest to those who participated in the struggle for a just and fair interpretation of the often all-too-vague clauses in which the laws were couched. When the restitution law of the U.S. Zone was enacted the old Reichsmark was still the official currency. Nobody could foresee what the currency reform, which was bound to come, would look like and how it would affect restitution. The position was different when the British legislation some 15 months later was being prepared. But the British legislator did not wish to speak up, where his U.S. colleague had been, and remained, silent. Thus the field was open for a fight. It took years to settle the problem by way of court decisions. In fact it was settled in a way, which—though some noticeable blemishes have remained—is not entirely unfair to those concerned. However, all the many disadvantages of judicial law-making had to be endured, in particular the permanent losses of those, who were defeated by wrong decisions during the time before the Allied Supreme Courts could make up their minds.

A much shorter chapter deals with legislation in the French Zone. It is significant that as early as 1947 France could not bring itself to adopt the same line as the British and American authorities. Its own efforts at solving the most thorny problems which were of decisive importance in practice were obviously wholly inadequate. Some of the worst hardships were mitigated by later legislation and by courageous court decisions. Others remained without remedy. The self-isolation of France in this matter was certainly far from being in any sense of the word "splendid". The book ends with a brief report on restitution in other European countries and a most informative statistical chapter.

Throughout his book Dr. Schwarz adopts the part of the historian, who attempts not only to report, but also to criticise and to judge. This does not mean that he always takes the part of the persecutee. Very frankly he admits the—fortunately rare—abuses of the law by some less scrupulous claimants. As he rightly says, the comparative success of the

Continued on page 7, column 1

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\*Die Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts durch die Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Herausgegeben vom Bundesminister der Finanzen in Zusammenarbeit mit Walter Schwarz, Vol. I: Rückerstattung nach den Gesetzen der Alliierten Mächte von Walter Schwarz. Verlag C. H. Beck, München 1974 XXV + 394 pps, DM 68.

**A HISTORY OF GERMAN  
INDEMNIFICATION FOR NAZI CRIMES**

Continued from page 6

law is in no small measure due to the fact that claimants were prepared to forgive and forego. Few of his readers will agree with all the strictures which he has thought fit to bestow upon legislators, courts, parties and their legal advisers. Thus he charges the "anonymous lawyers of Military Government" with the "inability to describe even the simplest set of facts" (p. 233), although a few pages further on he lauds the same group for having devised a "well thought-out and fair number of rules" (p. 254) and praises the practicability of the presumption introduced in the U.S. and British laws (p. 378).

To the lawyer, Dr. Schwarz's painstaking description of the manner in which the various rules of the restitution legislation were interpreted by the courts is, no doubt, fascinating, though perhaps a good many practitioners might wish that the learned author would have published a full commentary on the law a few years ago. Whether the historian will be equally satisfied with this part of the work is less certain. What Dr. Schwarz presents, is not really a full history: a historian would not merely deal with ideas and events, but also, if not predominantly, with persons; of these, however, we hear very little, indeed, from the author. We are told who the three Germans were, who at considerable personal sacrifices stood up for the sake of restitution to Nazi victims, i.e., Otto Küster, Adolf Arndt and Franz Böhm. But we hear nothing else of them. What positions did they hold before 1933? What was their attitude from 1933 to 1945? And what happened to them since then? A historian could not have failed to inform his readers on these points in order to give his readers a real understanding of the background of the battle for restitution. There were opponents to restitution. A whole chapter of the book deals with their efforts. But not one single clue identifies the persons of those who tried to obstruct the cause of justice. Some half a dozen commentaries on the restitution law have been published. Some of them gained considerable influence during the early years of the implementation of restitution. Neither these works nor their authors are mentioned, though at least one of them, i.e., Freiherr von Godin senior, was a highly colourful personality. Not even the names of the judges of the four Allied Supreme Courts are recorded—except in the case of one French judge. Would it not have been of some interest to readers to know who the men were who had to try to solve as best as they could the many knotty problems which the author has so eloquently described? What was their background? What did they know of Germany or the Continental legal systems? Perhaps it is too early in the day to write a really full history of the Allied restitution legislation. Perhaps too many aspects are not yet ripe for treatment. But if and when the time will have come to say what must still remain unsaid, Dr. Schwarz will be able to claim the great merit of having laid a most valuable and solid groundwork for those who will have to erect the final building.

Hans Liebeschütz

## THE ROOTS OF CIVILISATION

In his recently published book,\* Professor Victor Ehrenberg has gathered lectures and essays which he considers suitable to bridge the gulf between the contemporary world and Antiquity. Once Franz Rosenzweig, by five years his senior, was inclined to exercise influence on the development of his second cousin. Both men had applied their university years to serious historical studies. But while Rosenzweig soon turned to a philosophy of faith and revelation which became the basis for his reinterpretation of Judaism, Ehrenberg remained an historian. These years saw a fresh contact with the tradition of Idealism which modified the positivistic features of Classical scholarship. Ehrenberg's studies on the development of political ideas and institutions and their reflexion in Greek tragedy and comedy have established his international status in the world of scholarship. He sees the contrast of Orient and Occident in action and reaction as an effective force in the development of Ancient civilisation. This observation forms the theme of the book's introductory chapter. The Jewish mind is seen as the most strongly profiled representative of a God-centred attitude characteristic of the East which faces the Western claim for autonomy of the secular aspect of life. The Bible and Homer are shown as the great symbols of the two sides of this differentiation. The Greeks became the first political nation; Israel created the ideal of God's kingdom as the basis of social life. In the Roman empire with its syncretistic civilisation Jewry, formed by a law separating its strict adherents from their surroundings, became a ferment.

The relationship of Jewish and Greek achievements reappears as one of the problems discussed in the last essay of the collection where the author offers his answer to the great question about the meaning of History. Both the narrative books of the Bible and Thukydides' story of the Peloponnesian War were opening new vistas for the human mind by making the past a permanent possession and a teacher for their peoples' future. The Greek writer possessed a clear understanding of politics and of the mental attitudes determining human action. He started the development of a method capable to find the truth among contradictory reports and rumours. On the other hand, the biblical books, which deal with the people's origin, with the rise and changing fate of the monarchy, represent a clear break from the eulogies of the superhuman deeds ascribed to the kings in the oriental world. The biblical history does not idealise its individual heroes, its comprehensive theme are the people who obey or defy the divine will. Methodical problems and the character of political issues in this corner of the Middle East are not considered, but a great amount of knowledge about human nature is offered.

Ehrenberg's attempt to define the character of History is rooted in both traditions. He emphasises that all events which form the can-

\* Victor Ehrenberg, *Man, State and Deity*. Essays in Ancient History. University Paperbacks, Methuen & Co. Ltd. 1964. £1.70.

vas of the past are made by men; they are "creature's creation". In this field Thukydides remains his master. The divine purpose behind these appearances is necessarily hidden. However, such observation does not exclude the deeply rooted desire to search for the secret behind this sometimes chaotic surface. Paradox and completely unplanned turnings in history may point to an influence higher than human reason. Alexander the Great's plan to unite Occident and Orient into a universal monarchy broke down at the moment of his death. But the penetration of Hellenic institutions and thought into the Asiatic space finally caused the reaction of the East which formed the cultural background for the rise of Christianity. In this way Alexander's conquest created the basis for the following epoch. Another "miracle" is the survival of the Jewish people, the only remaining witness from Antiquity. Their history represents an eternal alternation of co-existence and persecution, but in spite of these contrasts it possesses a unity of its own which stretches untouched through the changing periods. Professor Ehrenberg sees the best explanation of this phenomenon in Jewry's belief that the summary of their existence can be defined as the task to teach the eternal truth about God.

The main content of the book reflects the fact that the author's research has been concerned with action and thought of men. We read about the fate of freedom in the political life of the city state, about the change of periods in the development of Hellenic civilisation. We are shown how Hesiod and Aeschylus have treated the figure of Prometheus and we learn about Roman concepts of politics and about Caesar's final intentions. On the whole we feel taught by a scholar who stands in the line of succession to Thukydides rather than to the theocratic narration of the Bible. But the deeply humanistic attitude of style and judgement shows clearly that the will to keep contact with the ancestors' legacy remains an effective element in his historical world picture.

### MAX SCHELER EXHIBITION

To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the philosopher Max Scheler, the Bavarian State Library held an exhibition in his memory. Scheler was of partly Jewish origin; his mother was née Fuerther.

### DR. WALTER JUTTKE 80

Dr. Walter Juttke (London), who will be 80 on February 18, was for many years financial secretary of the Preussische Landesverband juedischer Gemeinden. British by birth, he carried on his work for the Jews in Germany throughout the pre-war period, until he left Berlin at the end of August 1939 on the urgent advice of the British Consul. A philatelist of long standing and past chairman of the German Jewish Philatelic Society until its dissolution by the Gestapo, Dr. Juttke after his immigration changed his erstwhile hobby into his profession and established himself in the stamp business in which he is still active.

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## THE MESSAGE OF MAKUYA

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. . . ." On a sunny winter morning, Psalm 23 was intoned on a hillside in Galilee—in Japanese. What a strange and moving sight: nearly 200 people, in flowing kimonos and that ever-present Japanese smile on their faces planting saplings in the rain-soaked earth of Northern Israel.

Large colourful banners, in perfect Hebrew, with passages from the Bible, decorated the site, among them a wording saying "Israel, be strong and courageous, the Makuya are always with you". The ceremony, atop Mount Turan in the Lower Galilee began with tears and ended with singing and dancing.

Who are the Makuya? Two days before that "happening", two films were screened in Jerusalem, produced by the Makuya group—one describing their first visit or better: pilgrimage to Israel, and the other showing their activities in Japan, both marked by the overwhelming personality of their one-time spiritual leader, Prof. Abraham Ikuro Teshima who passed away just a year ago. Hardly ever have I seen such intensity of emotion as the praying of those Japanese when they reached the Western Wall; hardly ever could one imagine in the streets of Tokio the dancing of the Hora to the tunes of Israeli songs.

The late Prof. Teshima, father of the movement, became interested in the Bible at an early age and established the Makuya—which means "Tabernacle" in Japanese—following World War II. Today the movement numbers over 60,000 members who have adopted religious beliefs on the basis of the Bible and, to some extent, also from the New Testament—they observe both Yom Kippur and Christmas. The Makuya maintain strong relations with Israel by sending members here to study Jewish history and religion. At present, there are 30 such young men at the country's universities or in kibbutzim. These students, when they return home, serve as the main source of information on Israel.

After the Lod airport massacre, which both shocked and hurt the Makuya personally through the involvement of some of their countrymen, they donated an ambulance to Israel. After the Yom Kippur War in 1973, when the Arab world intensified its use of oil as a political weapon, the Makuya organised a march through the main streets of Tokio, with several thousand people participating who came from all over Japan. Headed by Prof. Teshima, they demonstrated their solidarity with Israel and decried their government's pro-Arab stand. Prof. Teshima's failing health was aggravated by the effort of the demonstration and three weeks later he died at the age of 63. All his life he had believed that without Israel there could be no salvation nor redemption, and that the Jewish State must not be forsaken in her time of need.

It was in his memory that the Makuya Forest was planted, initiated by a generous donation to the Jewish National Fund from a member of the group. Prof. Teshima's widow unveiled the forest plaque and received the testimonial, recording the fact that the woodland bears the name of her late husband. She took home a pine branch from one of the first trees growing in this forest.

"We don't know why we deserve such a warm welcome from you", said a spokesman of the movement at the forest dedication in

typically far-Eastern modesty, and an Israel representative replied: "Your pilgrimage proves your true friendship in such bitter times as ours. It is good to know that we have friends over 13,000 miles away whose hearts beat together with ours".

Accustomed to attending many planting ceremonies, one should not be ashamed to confess one's emotion at the extraordinary scene on Mount Turan when the Japanese visitors and their Israeli hosts together intoned the planters' prayer: "Give dew for a blessing and cause beneficent rains to fall in their season, to satiate the mountains of Israel and their valleys and to water thereon every plant and tree, and these saplings which we plant before Thee this day. . . ."

### THE LAST OF THE RATHENAU ASSASSINS

The other day, a brief press item stated that Ernst Werner Techow had died, one of the three who on June 24, 1922 murdered Walther Rathenau in Berlin-Grunewald. The two others—Kern and Fischer—committed suicide before being arrested. Techow escaped for a short while, leaving behind his mother who broke down under the deed of her son. Mathilde Rathenau, Walther's aged mother, wrote a letter to this woman which since has been quoted quite often: "In unspeakable sorrow I stretch out my hand to you, the poorest of all mothers. Tell your son that I forgive him, in the name and in the spirit of the murdered, as God may forgive him once he makes a full confession at the worldly court of justice and repents before the divine judge. Had he known my son, he

would have directed the weapon against himself rather than against Walther, the most noble of all sons. May these words give peace to your soul."

This letter brought about a radical transformation in the assassin and Jew-hater.

Rabbi Ely E. Pilchnick, one-time American Army chaplain, tells of a strange encounter in North Africa. In 1943, Ernest Tessier, Adjutant with the French Foreign Legion, was mentioned in despatches for having captured 24 members of Rommel's African Corps without firing as much as one shot—just by persuading them to surrender. Tessier, then 39 years old, who spoke German and French without a trace of any accent, was a tall, lean man with a brutal chin and a soft voice.

In Tessier's company there were a number of Central-European Jews who had escaped from the Nazis and joined the Foreign Legion. One evening he ordered four of them to report at his office. They came, expecting some kind of reprimand and were surprised when he offered them a seat. Without any preliminaries he said that the Jews were the only civilized people he had met in the hell of the Sahara. "I think that the Jews are among the best and most gifted peoples in the world", and he spoke with great knowledge of Jewish history and religion. These talks continued for many an evening. To the Jewish soldiers, Tessier became more and more of a mystery.

One evening as they were sitting again together, their conversation was interrupted. A new recruit reported to the Adjutant. "Legionnaire Rathenau, mon Adjutant-Chef", the newcomer saluted. Tessier jumped from his chair. "You said Rathenau? Are you by any chance related to Walther Rathenau, the murdered German Foreign Minister?" "His nephew", answered the recruit. For a few moments, Adjutant Tessier was silent. Then he said: "Rathenau, I murdered your uncle. My real name is Ernst Werner Techow". With this, he pulled from his pocket a piece of creased paper, smoothed it carefully and showed it to the recruit: it was Mathilde Rathenau's letter to his mother, dated a few days after the assassination.

Twenty years later, on that evening in the Sahara, Techow said: "You understand, Rathenau, this letter is my most precious possession. It opened up a new world for me. During the five years in prison, I read every word that Walther Rathenau had written, each of his books, each of his articles. Then I began to study Jewish history and religion. I wanted to get down to the sources, not to rely on translations, and that's why I learned Hebrew. During the past fifteen years I made an effort to come to terms with myself, just as much as mother Rathenau had overcome her grief by composing that letter. Wherever I could, I tried to help the Jews". He told a story—and it proved to be true—how in Marseilles in 1941, clad as a port steward, he smuggled 700 Jews from occupied France to Casablanca.

There is yet another piece of information on Techow. After the war the late Ernst von Salomon, who himself was involved in the Rathenau murder, author of the novel "Die Geächteten", wrote the best-seller "Der Fragebogen". There it states: "During the so-called 'Stennes Putsch', the revolt of Berlin's S.A. against Goebbels, Techow ran into him at the headquarters in Hedemannstrasse where the whole racket took place. He smacked Goebbels in his face, shouting: 'For such filthy swine as you we didn't bump off Rathenau'. And disappeared." As we know by now—into the Foreign Legion, to fight later on against Nazi Germany. H.F.



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# IN MEMORIAM

## HANS-ERICH FABIAN

It was in the middle of December that we had a lively and interesting talk in Berlin with the loyal regular visitor from New York, Hans-Erich Fabian. The news of his sudden death after his return, on December 25, therefore came as a particular shock. His departure at the age of 72 leaves a deeply felt void in the circle of his numerous friends.

The personal life of Hans-Erich Fabian was focused around the people with whom he had been associated during the three stages of his Jewish activities in Germany from 1933 onwards, first in the pre-war years, then during the war in Berlin and in Theresienstadt, and finally at the beginning of the re-established Jewish community of Berlin. His personality was marked by an active, critical intellect, a strong feeling of justice and an unrelenting readiness to help.

Born in Bromberg, Hans-Erich Fabian went to Berlin in 1920, where after the completion of his studies he became an Assessor with a Lower Law Court in 1929. After the abrupt end of his legal career in 1933, he managed to find other fields of activity. In 1938, he was appointed General Secretary of the Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums, and when the Hochschule had to close down, he worked with the Finance Department of the Reichsvereinigung, until he and his family were deported to Theresienstadt. After his liberation he returned to Berlin and soon rejoined the judicial service; in 1948 he was promoted to a Kammergerichtsrat. Yet, notwithstanding his professional duties, he devoted his energy and inexhaustible working capacity to the re-establishment of the Jewish community, whose chairman he became in 1946. He held this office during the first difficult years in post-war Berlin until he emigrated with his family to the United States in Spring 1949. Yet his attachment to Berlin, in any case to its Jewish section, remained unchanged also after his emigration.

In New York, where it was not easy for him to build up his life anew, he was for more than two decades a legal adviser at URO, dealing mainly with claims relating to Berlin. During the last years of his life he worked as a free-lance lawyer in restitution and compensation matters. This work, as well as his numerous personal bonds with friends and former fellow workers, led to frequent and often strenuous journeys to West Germany and Berlin.

Hans-Erich Fabian was also a gifted publicist. During his community chairmanship, he edited the Jewish weekly "Der Weg" (amalgamated in 1952 with the "Allgemeine" in Duesseldorf). He also contributed to the Festschrift of the Council of Jews from Germany on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Leo Baeck (1953), with whom he had been associated and also endured the imprisonment in Theresienstadt. Last but not least the publication of a book on the 25th anniversary of the Berlin post-war Jewish community, "Gegerwart im Rueckblick" was to a great extent due to his initiative. His address at the dedication ceremony, held in the Berlin Jewish Community Centre on December 20, 1970, was a memorable first-hand account of the new community's initial period. For the speaker himself, the delivery of the address was probably a climax of his life.

E. G. LOWENTHAL (Berlin)

## MR. PEREZ MOSBACHER

Mr. Perez Mosbacher, who recently died in London at the age of 85, was associated with several Jewish causes. He served as treasurer of the British Council of Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem and was also a member of the board of the AJR, whose meetings he attended with great interest as long as his health permitted.

## DR. KURT HAHN

Dr. Kurt Hahn, CBE, the founder of Gordonstoun, recently died at the age of 88. He was born in Berlin the son of the industrialist Oskar Hahn and grandson of the founder of the family's enterprise (Hahn'sche Werke). After having attended the Wilhelmsgymnasium in Berlin, he went to Oxford in 1904 to read classics at Christ Church. He continued his studies in Germany but in 1910 went back to Oxford for several years. At the time of the outbreak of the First World War, he was attached to the German Foreign Office. This work brought him into contact with Prinz Max von Baden, the last Imperial Chancellor and, after the war, with the help of Prince Max, he opened the boarding school in the Prince's Schloss Salem, whose educational principles were influenced by many facets of the English boarding schools. Hahn was at loggerheads with the Nazis already in 1932 when, on the occasion of the Potempa trial he urged Salem old boys in the SS or SA to relinquish either their loyalty to Hitler or to Salem. In 1933, he was imprisoned but was released partly through the intervention of Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister, and went to England. In November of that year, Gordonstoun was founded. Like Salem, it aimed at educating its pupils not only in the academic sphere but above all to invoke in them a sense of responsibility for the practical needs of the surrounding community, manifested in activities calling for resilience and physical courage such as mountain rescue and coastguard service. Those educated at Gordonstoun include Prince Philip and Prince Charles.

Dr. Hahn also initiated the foundation of the so-called Outward Bound Sea Schools of which now altogether 19 exist in this country, in the United States, on the Continent, in Commonwealth countries and in Africa.

After his retirement from Gordonstoun in 1953, he settled in the Hermannsburg, one of Salem's junior schools. Yet he remained active, flying between Germany and Britain each month, and worked on a project for "Atlantic Colleges", international sixth form boarding schools, the first of which was established at St. Donat's in South Wales.

Whilst there are many former refugees who enriched British scholarship, science and arts in one way or another, Dr. Hahn belongs to that, naturally smaller group among them, whose pioneer work stands out by its uniqueness.

## RABBI DR. MAX KOPPEL

Rabbi Dr. Max Koppel (New York) tragically died as the victim of a robbery assault. Before he emigrated to the United States, he was rabbi of the community of Hirschberg/Silesia (1931-34) and of the Jewish Reformgemeinde in Berlin (1934-37). In New York, Dr. Koppel was the co-founder and spiritual head of the Emeth Wozedek community, established by immigrants from Central Europe. He was 69 years old.

## DR. JOSEPH SCHWARZ

Dr. Joseph Schwarz, former Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee, died in New York at the age of 76. He played a leading role in succouring the victims of Nazism before, during and after the Second World War. After the fall of France he established JDC headquarters in Lisbon, helping to save Jews trapped in Hitler's Europe. He also planned and supervised the massive relief campaign of the Joint for the survivors of the concentration camps.

## PROF. HANS HELLER

Professor Hans Heller, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology in the University of Bristol, died in his 70th year. He was born in Bruenn and appointed to a post in the University of Vienna in 1931. In 1935, he came to England and in 1941, he obtained a professorship in Bristol. Professor Heller was editor of the Journal of Endocrinology from 1963-74. He also organised many research symposia, including, in 1956, the first international conference on the neuro-hypophysis.

## CARLO LEVI

Carlo Levi, the Italian-Jewish writer, painter and politician, died in Rome at the age of 72. He was best known by his novel, Christ Stopped at Eboli, which was based on his experiences in the malaria-infested penal settlement of Lucania in Southern Italy where he was banished by Mussolini in 1935. During the war, Levi joined the Resistance Movement. In 1963, he was elected to the Italian Senate as an independent on the Communist list and served for several years in the Italian upper House. He was interested, but not involved, in things Jewish, critical of Israeli leadership and sympathetic towards the Palestinians.

## MISS HERTHA NEUFELD

Miss Hertha Neufeld, who died at Osmond House in her 90th year, was a devoted Jewish social worker of long standing. In Berlin, she was in charge of the Juedische Kinderhilfe from its inception in 1920 onwards. The Kinderhilfe, located in the Auguststrasse, maintained a day centre and also looked after the health and educational needs of children in the North of Berlin, many of whom stemmed from newly immigrated Eastern Jewish families. In 1938 she went to Palestine, where she lived together with her late sister, the well-known pioneer in the field of social work, Siddy Wronsky. Her main services there were devoted to the boarding school for deaf and dumb children. Miss Neufeld spent the years of her retirement in London, the domicile of her brother, Dr. Hans Neufeld. Yet, as long as her health permitted, she also voluntarily worked for the benefit of the former refugees by building up and administering the lending library run by the AJR Social Services Department until a few years ago. A highly cultured, unassuming personality, she will be gratefully remembered by all who knew her.

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# SCENE FROM ISRAEL

## DIVISION IN THE DIASPORA

Professor David Vital, Professor of Political Science at the University of Haifa, spoke at the Noah Barou memorial lecture to the British section of the World Jewish Congress in London. He warned that developments since the Yom Kippur War have raised a "serious danger" of creating a division between Israel and the Jews in the diaspora. The safety of Israel was of overriding concern to modern Jewry but, said Professor Vital, the diaspora had doubts about the capability of the Israeli Government and people to fight their way through the present and subsequent crises. The social, economic and political costs of identifying with Israel were rising steeply and anti-Jewish attitudes by Arabs might win allies in competitive economic fields in which many Western Jews were engaged. At the same time, the majority of diaspora Jews lived in countries where things military were distasteful, whereas Israel undoubtedly relied on military means.

The professor thought that diaspora Jewry's philanthropic impulse in their relation to Israel would have to be replaced by a fundamental political attitude. This would also require a radical change in Israel's approach to diaspora Jewry's direct participation in her internal affairs.

## ROSTROPOVICH VISIT

Mstislav Rostropovich, the Soviet cellist at present resident in Britain, came to Israel in the first visit by a major Soviet artist to the Jewish State. He gave three concerts with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

## FAMILY EVENTS

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

### Birthdays

**Adler.**—Dr. Erwin Adler of 807, Finchley Road, London, N.W.11, celebrated his 75th birthday on January 27. Happy birthday, good health and best wishes from all your family. Mrs. M. Kirstein, Wembley Park.

**Dannemann.**—Mr. Bernhard Dannemann of Otto Schiff House, 14, Netherhall Gardens, London, N.W.3, will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 6.

### Deaths

**Berlowitz.**—Mr. Bruno Berlowitz (of Cannes) died in Grasse (France) on December 6, 1974, at the age of 70. Sadly missed by his brother and sister-in-law, Rudolf and Eva Berlowitz, 31, Leigh Gardens, London, N.W.10, and all his cousins and friends.

**Hellendall.**—Mrs. Elise Hellendall (née Heymann) of Westfield, New Jersey, U.S.A. (formerly of Warburg, Westphalia and Düsseldorf) died on December 31, 1974. Deeply mourned by her children Matilde and Fritz, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and all relations and friends.

**Kohn.**—Mr. Henry Kohn of 102, Leeside Crescent, London, N.W.6, passed away on Sunday, December 8, 1974. In friendship Dr. L. L.

**Löwenstein.**—Hertha Löwenstein died in Croydon on January 2. She is deeply mourned by her cousin, Erna Simson, Tel-Aviv and her other relations and friends.

## GOLDMANN CRITICISES ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

In an interview in "Le Monde", Dr. Nahum Goldmann criticised the Israeli Government for trying "to dictate to the Palestinians their aims in affairs which concern primarily the Palestinians themselves". The best solution, according to Dr. Goldmann, would be the demarcation of territory on the West Bank, which would be evacuated by Israel and handed over to the United Nations. The international organisation could then arrange and supervise a plebiscite among the Palestinian people, to decide whether the territory should remain part of Jordan or become an independent state.

Dr. Goldmann said that he fully supported the Israeli Government in its refusal to negotiate with the PLO, which he described as "an organisation whose strategic goal is to destroy the State of Israel, and which employs terrorist methods towards this end".—(JTA)

## LINKS WITH DUBLIN

A statement issued simultaneously in Dublin and Jerusalem announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Ireland and Israel.

Although Ireland accorded Israel *de facto* recognition already in February, 1949, up to now there have not even been consular relations between the two countries. Israel and Ireland have, however, always been on the best of terms, with strong trade relations between the two countries.

**Loewy.**—Saba Loewy, at Morris Feinmann Home, Manchester, formerly of Leeds and Wien, passed away on January 5, aged 86. Loved and cherished by her children, Gerda and Otto, grandchildren, Frank, Anthony and Marie Claude, Wallasey and Geneva. Also mourned by two sisters in Berlin and Tel-Aviv.

**Mosbacher.**—Mr. Perez Mosbacher of 32, Windsor Court, London, N.W.11, passed away peacefully on December 17, 1974, aged 85. Deeply mourned by his wife, Fridl, daughters, Edith Berlinger and Hanna Hurst and all his family and friends.

**Neufeld.**—Hertha Neufeld died on January 16, in her 90th year, after a long illness. Mourned by Hans and Charlotte Neufeld.

**Schwarz.**—Mr. Rudolf Schwarz of Harley House, London, N.12 passed away peacefully on December 25, 1974, aged 84. Deeply mourned by his relations and friends.

**Wolff.**—Carola Wolff of Otto Schiff House, 14, Nethall Gardens, London, N.W.3, passed away on January 18. Deeply mourned by her friend, Leon Braun, and her relations in the U.S.A. and all residents of Otto Schiff House.

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## STUDENTS' SUPPORT

The world executive of the World Union of Jewish Students, meeting in Israel, passed a unanimous resolution calling on all young Jews to follow the lead of Israeli students, and to make similar sacrifices through a period of voluntary civil and/or social service to the Jewish people. The executive decided to initiate a programme of activities for Jewish students "designed to reinforce Jewish unity while stressing diversity of expression". The aim is to counter the threat to Israel and the existence of the Jewish people represented by "the propaganda directed against the State of Israel".

## RUSSIAN IMMIGRATION

A report in the New York Times from its Moscow correspondent describes the latest stage in the Soviet campaign to dissuade Jews from emigrating. An article in Sovetskaya Rossiya is quoted about Mr. and Mrs. Yosef Shklar who emigrated to the United States and have since returned to the Soviet Union disillusioned about the American way of life.

Dr. Victor Polsky, the 44-year-old Moscow Jewish physicist, who has been one of Soviet Jewry's most determined activists, arrived in Israel after a four-year struggle to leave the Soviet Union. He was accompanied by his wife, their daughter, his mother, father-in-law, sister-in-law and niece.

Another Jewish scientist prominent in the emigration campaign, Professor Alexander Voronel, has arrived in Israel together with his wife, after a long struggle to leave. They joined their son who emigrated to Israel about a year ago.

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### Personal

CONTINENTAL LADY, early fifties, now on her own. Interests: theatre, concerts, travel, wishes to meet gentleman, similar background. Box 462.

I WOULD LIKE TO FIND A PROFESSIONAL MAN, not older than 65, for my cousin. She is late 50, widow, working as a bookkeeper, speaks Hungarian, living in her own flat. Box 463.

### MISSING PERSONS

#### AJR Enquiries

Beale.—Mr. M. Beale, last known address: 87, Bishops Road, Prestwich, Manchester.

Waldman (n).—Mr. Fritz Waldman (n), formerly from Vienna, aged approximately 55 years, last known address: 465 Walsgrave Road, Coventry, who came to the U.K. from Israel about 1948.

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# ERHOEHUNG DER ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSRENTEN NEWS FROM GERMANY

Die auf S.11 der November-Nummer 1974 angekuendigten neuen Verordnungen betreffend die Erhoehung der Renten nach den 1. — 3. Durchfuehrungsverordnungen zum Bundesentschaedigungsgesetz sind nunmehr endlich im Bundesgesetzblatt Teil I S.3346 ff unter dem Datum vom 29.11.1974 veroeffentlicht worden.

Die in der November-Ausgabe angegebenen Betraege beduerfen aufgrund der veroeffentlichten Verordnung folgender Berichtigungen:

(1) Die *Rentenerhoehungen* betragen zwar im allgemeinen, wie fruеher angegeben, 11% der fuer das Jahr 1973 gezahlten Renten, jedoch sind die hoeheren Renten, also die Renten im gehobenen und hoeheren Dienst fuer aeltere Rentenerhoehungsberechtigten, nicht um volle 11% erhoehet worden, sondern durchschnittlich nur um etwa 10%.

Es verbleibt dabei, dass die sog. Mindestrenten um 12% erhoehet worden sind.

(2) Die *Berufschadensrenten fuer fruеher unselbstaendig Taetige* sind, falls sie im Jahre 1973 nicht mehr als DM 900 monatlich betragen, um weitere 12% (nicht 11%) erhoehet worden, die Rentenbetraege von mehr als DM 900 jedoch nur um 9%, mindestens aber um monatlich DM 108. Die Hoechstgrenze der neuen Rente ist DM 1.605.

(3) Bei *Vertriebenen deutscher Volksgemeinschaft* ist die Berufschadensrente von bisher DM 420 fuer die Zeit ab 1.1.1974 auf DM 470 erhoehet worden, die entsprechende Berufschadensrentenrente von DM 321 auf DM 360.

(4) Bei den im Novemberheft angegebenen

*Mindestrenten fuer Gesundheitsschaden* betraegt die Rente bei einer Erwerbsminderung von 40-49% ab 1.1.1974 monatlich DM 347 (nicht 346) und bei einer Erwerbsminderung von 60-69% monatlich DM 553 (nicht 554).

(5) Die *Witwenmindestrente* ist von DM 494 auf DM 553 (nicht 554) erhoehet worden, die Mindestrente fuer einen Elternteil betraegt daher fuer die Zeit ab 1.1.1974, DM 277.

Bei Rentenberechnung nach einem Hundertsatz der entsprechenden Beamtengruppe ist zu beruecksichtigen, dass die sog. *Freibetraege* von bisher monatlich DM 300 auf monatlich DM 350 erhoehet worden sind; auch die niedrigeren Freibetraege bei der Berufschadensrentenrente sind erhoehet worden.

Inzwischen ist von den meisten Entschaeidigungsbehoerden die entsprechende Rentenerhoehung bereits durchgefuehrt worden.

## OSSIETZKY MEDALS

### Awards to Helmut Gollwitzer and Heinrich Boell

The Hall of Berlin's Jewish Communal Centre, Fasanenstrasse, was the venue of a ceremony under the auspices of the Liga fuer Menschenrechte, when the Carl von Ossietzky Medals for 1973 and 1974 were awarded to the theologian Helmut Gollwitzer and the author Heinrich Boell respectively. The publicist Carola Stern, recipient of the 1972 Medal, delivered the laudatio for Helmut Gollwitzer who, in turn, presented the 1974 Medal to Heinrich Boell. The function was also attended by the past Federal German President, Dr. Gustav Heinemann, and by the Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Schuetz.

## DR. SCHROEDER MEETS ARAFAT

The meeting between the former Federal German Foreign Minister and present chairman of the Foreign Committee of the Bundestag, Dr. Gerhard Schroeder, was strongly criticised by the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany. Criticism was also expressed by several members of Schroeder's own party, among them Bundestag members Juergen Wohlrabe and Eric Blumenfeld, as well as by the chairman of the Bavarian CSU, Franz Josef Strauss. On the other hand, several speakers of the Government party, the SPD, described the arrangement of the meeting as justified. Schroeder himself declared that he had agreed to meet Arafat because the purpose of his recent visit to the Middle East was to get a full picture of the views held by all political forces involved in the problem.

The Minister of State at the German Foreign Office, Hans-Juergen Wischniewski, said that Bonn would make its relations to the PLO dependent on the PLO's attitude towards Israel's right to a secure existence.

## FDP SPOKESMAN ON PLO

The General Secretary of the Free Democratic Party, which is a member of the coalition, Martin Bangemann, declared after his recent visit to Israel that Israel was right in rejecting any international recognition of the PLO so long as that organisation refused to recognise Israel. But, he added, "a word of clarification from Yasir Arafat on this issue could set it right and ensure the PLO observer status at the planned European-Arab dialogue". Bangemann further said that "a moral obligation on the part of West Germany to maintain special relations with Israel, based only on past history", was "inadequate and fragile". Rather, the two countries should base their relationship on the similarity of their democratic way of life, and on German support for Israel's right of existence.—(JTA)

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## Letters to the Editor

### "JESUS THE JEW"

Sir,—I read with great interest J. J. Maitlis's review of Geza Vermes' book "Jesus the Jew" and especially his reference to Klausner's study "Jesus of Nazareth".

Today, when several renowned thinkers and scholars are concerned with the person and the teachings of the Jew Jesus, it is worthwhile to reflect that these thoughts were already available in word and print some 50 years ago.

As early as 1921, Constantin Brunner, the German-Jewish philosopher, who spent the last years of his life in The Hague, published his book "Unser Christus oder Das Wesen des Genies". In this work Brunner shows that the teachings of Jesus are indeed Jewish teachings, and far from advocating (as has often been suggested) that "the Jews" should become followers of Jesus or of what his disciples made of his teachings later, Brunner urges us (a) to acknowledge Jesus' teachings as Jewish and (b) to claim Jesus' teachings as Jewish whenever they are being held up by our adversaries (or friends) as being superior to the teachings of what they call the Old Testament.

Brunner dealt with the subject even earlier when, in 1884 at the age of 22, he wrote his "Rede der Juden: Wir wollen ihn zurueck". This "Rede" was not published until 1921 when it was incorporated as the last chapter of his "Der Judenhass und die Juden"; it has since been republished on its own in 1968 under the auspices of the International Constantin Brunner Instituut in The Hague. In it Brunner makes us Jews say to the Christians that "It is time for you to confess and it is time for us to acknowledge: Jesus Christ the Jew".

May I quote from the introduction to the 1968 edition: "Since, after the terrible happenings under the Nazi régime . . . there has risen an unbiased quest for Truth, it is to be hoped that the 'Rede der Juden' will find its readers and play its part in helping to put an end to an incredible historical error and injustice."

W. GOETZ.

10 Perceval Avenue,  
London, NW3 4QA.

### NOVEMBER POGROMS PLANNED

Sir,—Confirming from my own experiences Mr. O. Winter's statement in his Letter to the Editor (your December, 1974, issue), it was obvious to the inmates of Buchenwald's Jewish Blocks, at least to those who were concerned with politics, that the November pogrom was planned. The emergency huts AI to V were erected by the prisoners two weeks before the Paris shooting in round-the-clock work, under lamps during dark hours. Camp leader Roedl mentioned to prisoners that they were required for the Jews due to arrive shortly. The only newspapers allowed in the camp were "Voelkischer Beobachter" and "Das Schwarze Corps", the SS organ. The latter served us as a barometer of events to come; it carried an indication of the November pogroms two weeks before they actually happened. Also an over-eager police force in a place in Thuringia arrested Jews and sent them to Buchenwald camp the evening before the vom Rath shooting in Paris. These facts were known only to eye witnesses.

(Dr.) HEINZ FELDHEIM,  
Hochschullehrer i.R.

Dachau and Buchenwald prisoner from  
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Hackerberg 2/1/1, West Germany.

### DR. ROBERT WELTSCH'S ARTICLES

Sir,—Please allow me the following short comments on the letter by Dr. Alice Benfey-Flatow published in your November, 1974 issue, which I received only recently. I have been living in Erez Israel since 1933 as one of the big aliya from Germany. In criticising Dr. Weltsch's articles, Dr. Benfey, inter alia, made three remarks which should not be left unanswered by an Israeli Zionist.

First: It is not true that Israel (i.e., its Government) "published the result of the Committee of Inquiry under Judge Agranat (after the October War)". These results have not been published so far. Only a few days ago, "Ha'aretz", the leading Hebrew daily, carried a lengthy warning to the Agranat Committee,

just now in the final stage of summing-up its findings, to really publish what they found out and not to have their report disappear in Government files.

Secondly: While I entirely agree with Mrs. Benfey's observation that Jewry abroad has "one united community with Israel", I disagree with her reasoning that diaspora Jewry has no "right" beyond "contributing funds" and should not be entitled to take a stand on controversial problems of Israel. Besides, the diaspora also "contributes" growing numbers of its youth to work and study here.

Thirdly: The "Palestinians" are most decidedly not just a "brand name which was introduced by the terrorist organisations" but comprise two million living people, one half of them in Jordan, the other half since 1967 under Israeli Military Government rule. Had Mrs. Benfey only read the Diaries and Letters of the late Dr. Arthur Ruppin, she could not have made her statement. From 1908 till 1943 Dr. Ruppin worked in Erez Israel and for the country's development in peace, with the problem of our Arab next door neighbours growing on his conscience.

ELI ROTHSCHILD.

P.O.B. 26003, Tel Aviv.

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#### Appointments and Honours

The newly elected president of the "American Joint Distribution Committee", Jack D. Weiler (New York), is a well-known and influential personality in American economic life. He has always taken an active part in Jewish affairs. For 25 years he was chairman of the "United Jewish Appeal", the leading American Jewish fund raising organisation which also finances the "Joint". The 60th Annual General Meeting renewed the appointments of the senior Joint officials, Samuel L. Haber and Herbert Katzky (executive vice-president and deputy executive vice-president respectively) and Theodore D. Feder (director of Overseas Operations).

In recognition of his work for the rescue of Jews in Europe before and after 1949, Samuel L. Haber was awarded the Israeli Aliyah Silver Medal. Now 71 years old, Haber has been in the service of the Joint since 1947, when he was appointed Regional Director for Germany and Austria.—(EGL)

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