

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weltch

THE STRUGGLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Since the U.N. Assembly resolution branding Zionism as "racist" was adopted on November 10, very strong criticisms have been voiced by the representatives of democratic countries (notably by the U.S. and Britain) and by the liberal press against its implications, and also opposition about the motives of the States which voted in favour and about their own "racial" record. For technical reasons almost two weeks will have passed when the present issue will reach their readers, while the dispute goes on; it makes little sense to repeat what has already been commented upon. It goes without saying that Israeli and many Jewish authoritative bodies, no less than the Israeli and general Jewish press, have given vent to the indignation evoked by this unprecedented intentional insult to a people which in this century has been the most spectacular victim of racism. After all that has happened in the past 50 years, debates conducted for several decades among the Jews themselves or in the name of emancipation and equal citizenship in Europe as to whether Jews are a nation, or race, a mere religious community, or whatever else, have become obsolete for obvious reasons. As raised now in an international dimension, the issue, if considered serious at all and not obviously hypocritical and defensible, has quite a different aspect.

It is significant that on the same page of *The Times* (November 17), where a report by Mr. Allan Tait is printed, there appeared an article by the Spanish teacher Oscar Hill about the shocking experience "in the tank of General Auzan's prison cell", which he regards up with reflections on political and social life. He believes Auzan having to be self-defeating. He says: "He is an African reality. He has created an African dream, the creation of a 'White Black African State'. If such a 'dream' is not racism, what is it? But nobody has introduced a resolution against it. On the contrary, according to Hill, 'many Africans, even if they deplore much of his conduct, will want to see the use of his bold leadership in the struggle to be put to against fascism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism'."

A Question of Power

It would be a mistake to assume that the general declaration that Zionism is a "racist" movement to be condemned by the apparently enlightened international community represented by today's United Nations majority has anything to do with a quest for scientific definition or with philosophy of history. It is, in fact, nothing but a new desire in the political arena which is considered—allegedly, it must be admitted—by the Arab States and by the majority of the pan-Arab nationalist government to overthrow the State of Israel, regarding it as a legitimization against the Arabs who are

atives of Palestine and had been displaced in the course of four wars. As it is, the Arabs who maintain that in spite of the armistice agreements a state of war prevails juridically, such problems would have to be seen in this perspective and not according to peace-time concepts. What could be described as "racist" is not a theoretical, not even a semantic controversy which could be examined by logical means in the context of the contemporary political ideas and facts; it is simply a matter of power. The Arabs command an automatic majority in the United Nations and Israel is isolated. This power they use determined to exploit. Nobody, far less, would dream of proposing in the U.N. Assembly a resolution concerning human rights against a super power like the Soviet Union regardless of whether Solzhenitsyn wrote his impact in the home by producing ten more volumes of Gulag. Not even against such a minor power as Uganda a protest resolution would be moved after the wholesale expulsion of people of Asian "race". Always political tactical considerations prevail; not to speak of innumerable other cases in point.

Yet coming back to Mr. Hill's above-quoted remarks, we cannot avoid admitting that the P.L.O. too has become "a reality". Israel may regret and denounce this fact but is apparently unable to change it. The real point for reflection is how this undesirable constellation has been brought about—in other words: what were the blunders and failures of Israel's policy-makers during the past 30 years, and of its active fellow-travellers and well-meaning but blind advisers within and outside the Jewish camp. While Israeli representatives had nothing of real relevance to say, public opinion almost inadvertently but steadily drifted towards the opposite direction, namely towards recognition of the Arab, especially of the Palestinian one and finally towards accepting the P.L.O. as a legitimate representative and dealing with it overtly or indirectly.

This position was accentuated when in connection with the problem of removal of the mandate of the United Nations buffer force on the Golan the Security Council, including this time the United States, agreed to invite the P.L.O. to a forthcoming discussion of the Palestine problem, thus accepting the Arab contention that in spite of the U.N. resolution of November, 1947, and in spite also of resolution 242 of November, 1947, the whole Palestine problem was subject to overall reconsideration. The resolution of the Security Council of December 1 is tantamount to recognition of the P.L.O. as a sort of "government in exile", analogous to the status that during the Second World War was accorded to governments in exile of occupied countries.

Perhaps the ground for such a step was

smoothed by the recent agreement signed in Moscow by representatives of the P.L.O. and of the Soviet Government, whose formulation contained a reference to the original principle of partition which the P.L.O. has hitherto always declared null and void. That reference is in accordance with the stand taken by the Soviet Government which acknowledges Israeli sovereignty though not its expansion over the territories occupied in the 1967 war.

Anyhow, Israel revealed its insistence on exclusion of the P.L.O. from all political deliberations and resorted to its conventional—and also counter-productive—response of military action against the P.L.O.'s military strongpoints. Moreover, the Israel Government, as a demonstration of defiance, proclaimed its decision to establish four more settlements on the soil of occupied Golan. At the same time, the Gush Etzionim staged a Channukah march of hundreds of its supporters, men, women and children, on Schabab near the Arab centre of Nabatieh, in order to lay the foundation for a permanent Jewish settlement there and to prevent the future return of this area to an Arab authority. This demonstration, in pouring rain and icy cold, raised some, was executed against the will of the Israeli Government who had closed the roads and barred all vehicles from the area. At the time of writing, we cannot foresee how this new crisis will be solved, definitely or provisionally. But it is an incentive for looking back to the past two years of Israel's policy.

If, as all Israeli commentators at the time were quick to assert, the October, 1970, war was really an "earthquake" which opened the eyes of the Israeli public to the true situation, what was demanded was a thorough re-orientation, a rethinking of the problem, a new concept and a new approach. For a few weeks it seemed at that time that considerable sections of Israel's public opinion were demanding for a fundamental change of the course of policy, not only by supplanting some politicians of the old guard by other men who would, more or less, continue the old concept ("give time") attitude instead of boldly trying for peace within a new setting. Yet, in face of the many tragic losses of life by terrorist attacks and in defiance of the war of nerves, public attitude hardened steadily and returned to the old juggling with extremist slogans and party manoeuvres which were quite inadequate for coping with the actual international constellation. The situation became not easier by the activities of religious fanatics like the "Gush Etzionim" who openly proclaimed expansionist and annexationist aims within the occupied Arab area; sometimes, though not always, would-be settlers of this faction were rebuked and even forcibly removed by the Israel Government itself. But under the pressure from the extremist side and the persistence of "the whole Zionist Israel" apparently no promising attempt could be made to tackle the central problem, namely the relations with the Palestinians, both with those under Israel jurisdiction and those expatriates who had had to leave their homes

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It is significant that on the same page of *The Times* (November 17), where a rejoinder by Abba Eban is printed, there appeared an article by the English teacher Denis Hills about his shocking experience "in the face of death in General Amin's prison cell", which he rounds up with reflections on political methods. "I believe Amin-baiting to be self-defeating", he says; "he is an African reality. He has realised an African dream, the creation of a truly Black African State". If such a "dream" is not racism, what is it? But nobody has introduced a resolution against it. On the contrary, according to Hills, "many Africans, even if they deplore much of his conduct, will want to make use of his bold leadership in the struggle, as he puts it, against Zionism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism".

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natives of Palestine and had been displaced in the course of four wars. As it is, the Arabs who maintain that in spite of the armistice agreements a state of war persists juridically, such problems would have to be seen in this perspective and not according to peace-time concepts. What could be described as "racist" is not a theoretical, not even a semantic controversy which could be examined by logical means in the context of the contemporary political ideas and facts; it is simply a matter of power. The Arabs command an automatic majority in the United Nations and Israel is isolated. This power they are determined to exploit. Nobody, for instance, would dream of proposing in the U.N. Assembly a resolution concerning human rights against a super-power like the Soviet Union regardless of whether Solzhenitsyn wrote his fingers to the bone by producing ten more volumes of *Gulag*. Not even against such a minor power as Uganda a protest resolution would be moved after the wholesale expulsion of people of Asian "race". Always political tactical considerations prevail; not to speak of innumerable other cases in point.

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as a consequence of the wars and were not allowed to return. Thus it was inevitable that the P.L.O. was getting increasing support in the Arab world and gradually also in the wider orbit of nations all round, in spite of lip service to the condemnation of terror acts. Not only Israel's outspoken enemies rallied to the camp of Arafat's supporters, but also her friends are showing growing inclination to acknowledge the P.L.O. as legitimate spokesman for the Palestinian cause. It is now too late to speculate whether this development could have been arrested if Israel at the proper time had shown more readiness to deal squarely with King Hussein; this, of course, would have made sense only if one had been willing to make concessions suited to strengthen his prestige. In any case, to do nothing and to expect that the so-called *status quo* would last for ever and relieve the Israel Government from making decisions, was the worst possible policy; many critics of the Government pointed this out in vain in the Hebrew press. It was exactly what the Arabs suspected and were determined to prevent.

Too Little and Too Late

In this context it sounds almost ironical when Israel's Foreign Minister Yigal Allon is reported, on November 16, telling the Cabinet that he has now certain ideas for new proposals and hopes to be able to reveal these to his colleagues "within several months". How long will he wait? Provided he has really constructive "ideas" and does not say so only to cover the vacuum, Israel's statesmen have a speciality to produce "ideas" only when it must be clear that they are futile. A typical example was the recent proposal of the Defence Minister Shimon Peres to the Arabs of the occupied territories offering them a sort of municipal autonomy, just at the moment when, in the wake of the P.L.O.'s triumph at the United Nations and elsewhere, all Arabs were convinced that the days were counted when Israeli authorities could determine political schemes (within the Israeli occupation system and military régime, of course), while the Arabs do no longer conceal their desire for the complete abolition of this régime. Which Arab notable would dare to accept such a gift without being regarded a quisling? It was no surprise that the plan was rejected (the Mayor of Hebron being the only one prepared to discuss it at all); big protest demonstrations by students of Arab high schools (boys and girls) were staged, which resulted in clashes with the police, and heavy fines were imposed on scores of children who had taken part. An "idea" which in 1967 could perhaps have had some prospect if designed as the first stage in a process of evacuation, sounded casual and absurd in November, 1975. It was again too little and too late.

It seems that the year 1976 will again bring a turning point in the Middle East crisis. We all must hope that there will be no renewal of war which can only bring terrible losses and destruction to both sides while the result would again be fallacious. It has been proved that fighting alone cannot bring about a peace acceptable to both sides and leading to future constructive collaboration. Political and moral factors and accessory circumstances can be of greater effect than military confrontation, and in the end the will of the super-powers will always be decisive. Since 1967, Israel's various governments and most of its ideological trends have refused to appreciate that concessions made out of free will and readiness to make amends for wrongs suffered by innocent people are likely to have a value quite different from concessions exacted under duress. Apart from courageous individual pleas, primarily in Hebrew periodicals (rather clumsily labelled "dovish"), I know of only one comprehensive and consistent appeal for an overall new orientation of Zionism, both taking into account the present world constellation and recalling the original ideals of authentic Zionism, which were gradually overshadowed by the necessity of primarily military thinking; it is the programme presented by Nahum Goldmann in a whole series of articles and addresses during the past few years, but always ignored or rejected by those holding power. Goldmann has been an outsider who had no party to support him, in a country where even in hours of supreme crisis the mechanism of party rivalries prevails. He has now published a book in French,* giving a full outline of a new Zionist policy. Even for those who would not agree with all details of his argument and his proposals, this book could be recommended as ample stuff for thought and as a basis for a new approach without the misplaced self-righteousness which hitherto has marred all Israeli rhetoric. Too much is at stake for the whole of the Jewish people to be able to afford a further dragging on in the same ineffective methods.

* Nahum Goldmann: *Où va Israël?* Editions Calmann-Lévy, 3 rue Auber, Paris 1975. 192 pages, 27 F.

25 YEARS INSTITUT FUER ZEITGESCHICHTE

It is 25 years since the foundation of the Institut für Zeitgeschichte in Munich, Germany's Institute of Contemporary History. It has become the largest and most important specialist library for all aspects of National Socialism. Most of the files of NS government and party offices are stored there on microfilm, as are copies of newspapers for the period between the Great War and the present time. At the moment, the work of the Institute is focussed on documents of the post-war period, i.e. of the beginnings and development of the Federal Republic.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

Berlin Protest Meeting against UN Resolution

More than 3,000 people, among them numerous non-Jews, took part in the protest meeting of the Berlin Jewish community against the anti-Zionist UN resolution. Due to the large attendance, the addresses delivered in the Hall of the Communal Centre had to be transmitted to listeners outside the building. All three political parties were represented by their leading personalities. The Resolution, adopted after the address by Herr Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Community, begins as follows: "We, Jewish and non-Jewish citizens of Free Berlin, members of all sections of the population and of all age groups, are meeting here, in the Jewish Communal Centre Fasanenstrasse, on the same site, where 37 years ago one of the largest synagogues of this city was destroyed by the Nationalist Socialist terror regime of racial hatred. We strongly protest against the fact that 37 years after the November pogroms of 1938 a non-Democratic majority of the United Nations has succeeded in the adoption of a resolution which decries Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, as a racist ideology".

14 on Trial for Murder of 250,000 Jews

In Duesseldorf the trial opened of 14 former members of the Nazi SS guard at Maidanek concentration camp where at least 250,000 men, women and children, mostly Jewish deportees from Germany, were murdered during the War. Among the accused is Mrs Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan, 56, who was extradited to West Germany from the United States. She had emigrated there in 1959 and in 1963 married an American she had met when he was on holiday in Bavaria. In June 1973 a US appeal court stripped her of her US citizenship because she had not disclosed her conviction by an Austrian court in 1949 on charges of torturing concentration camp inmates. Another accused is Hermann Hackmann, a 62-year old sales representative who was the first commandant of the camp. He had been sentenced to death by an American military court after the war, but was released from prison in 1955. The trial is expected to be the last to deal with mass murder in concentration camps. So far, the Maidanek crimes have not been dealt with by any German court.

ERHOEHUNG DER ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSRENTEN

Die Verordnung ueber die in AJR Information, November 1975, erwaehte Erhoehung der Entschaeidigungsrenten ist nunmehr in dem am 22. November, 1975, ausgegebenen Bundesgesetzblatt Nr. 130 auf S.2870 ff. veroeffentlicht worden und hat damit auch formell Gesetzeskraft erhalten.

FINANCE ACT 1974

Pensions paid to Nazi Victims—Widows' Pensions

In our issue of September, 1974 we reported that a deduction of one-half of the income is made for U.K. tax purposes where a pension is payable under any special provision made by the law of the German Federal Republic or of Austria for victims of National-Socialist persecution (Section 22, Sub-Section [2], Finance Act 1974). The article explained that this section applies to pensions paid to former public servants and Jewish communal officials under the BWGoED, and to German and Austrian Social Insurance Pensions paid under special provisions made by the law of these countries for Nazi victims. In our issue of September, 1975 we further reported that the one-half exemption would also take effect for pensions paid to former Austrian State employees and other Austrian public employees in cases of Nazi persecution.

In reply to some enquiries received we wish to make it clear that the one-half exemption under Section 22(2), Finance Act 1974 also applies to the widows' pensions paid under the German or Austrian provisions made for Nazi victims. F.E.F.

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HOME NEWS

TORIES DIVIDED ON PALESTINE STATE

Mr Reginald Maudling, chief Conservative spokesman on foreign affairs, said during a House of Commons debate, that in the long run there must be a settlement between Israelis and Palestinians that will guarantee some appropriate country of their own to the Palestinians. The Arabs were entitled to a return of the territories taken from them in war. Mr Julian Amery, a former Conservative Minister, declared that he felt a little uneasy at Mr. Maudling's remarks. Mr. Winston Churchill publicly rejected the position adopted by Mr. Maudling and said: "Israel will not negotiate with the PLO and pressure on her to do so will make a settlement much more difficult. I do not think it is in our own or Israel's interest that such pressure should be exerted". Mr. Michael Fidler, director of the Conservative Friends of Israel, has issued a statement that the opinions expressed by Mr. Maudling "cannot be regarded as representing the views of the Conservative Party".

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Tory Party, declared that there had been no dramatic change of Party policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict and that she plans to visit Israel in March 1976. Early in the new year she intends to visit Egypt and Syria.

CAMDEN CHILDREN FOR ISRAEL

Fourteen pupils of the JFS Comprehensive School, Camden Town, left London for a five-month stay in Israel where they will share study and leisure with young Israelis. They are the third group from the school to embark on the Israeli trip and will stay, like their predecessors, at the Givat Washington School near Rehovot. The scheme was arranged by the Jewish Agency, the Israeli Ministry of Education and the JFS. The cost is now £800 per pupil, but an endowment fund set up by the school covers a large amount of the cost. Mr. E. S. Conway, headmaster of the school, said these trips were intended for some of the "best pupils to attain a fluency in Hebrew and become familiar with Jewish culture to an extent impossible to achieve in this country".

LINKS BETWEEN CAMBRIDGE AND HAIFA

Visits to Cambridge by Major-General Horev, president of the Haifa Technion and to Haifa by Professor Hawthorne, Master of Churchill College, are expected to inaugurate a process of co-operation between the two institutes devoted to science and technology. Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., recently accepted an invitation from Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of the Technion's board of government and president of the British Technion Society, to become one of its vice-presidents and suggested a meaningful link-up between the two colleges. He said that the combination of Arab wealth and Israeli technology, represented by the Technion, could transfer the Middle East into a Garden of Eden. General Horev reported that during its first half-century, the Technion had produced 15,000 skilled technicians and engineers and to-day had 9,000 students in its various faculties.

CZECH REFUGEE TRUST

The Czech Refugee Trust Fund which was set up by the British Government in 1939, is being wound up. Its purpose was to help refugees to resettle all over the world. Many of those who came to Britain, were given homes and financial aid. Its trust deed made it impossible to use it for aid to Czechs who came here after the Dubcek turmoil, and Charles Romney, its deputy director calls the closing "a sort of cry from the grave. It survived only to deal with beneficiaries who still live in this country. The fund had bought houses and it couldn't be wound up until some way was found to deal with them." Some houses have been transferred to other charities.

NEW TRADE LINKS BETWEEN UK AND ISRAEL

During a visit to this country by Mr. Haim Barlev, Israel's Minister for Commerce and Industry, a standing committee was set up to boost trade between this country and Israel, and to reduce the adverse balance of payments on the part of Israel. Israel hopes to sell more electronic, chemical and pharmaceutical goods to the U.K.

Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, whilst refusing to support legal sanctions against upholders of the Arab boycott, stated that he condemned in general any boycott that lacks international support and authority. He said at the 25th anniversary dinner of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce: "I believe that the boycott deprives both Israel and the Arab States of very considerable benefits that trade, investment and the transfer of technology can bring. . . It forces traders in this country to make decisions which undoubtedly they would wish not to have to make. . . The Government cannot sensibly seek to direct or instruct firms to supply specific markets".

MYSTERY MILLION

An anonymous non-Jewish donor has given £1 million in US dollars to the Israeli Ambassador in London, Mr. Gideon Rafael. The money is to be used for social welfare, particularly the establishment of rehabilitation centres for the physically handicapped in Israel.

ROY JENKINS IN ISRAEL

The Home Secretary, Mr. Roy Jenkins, said during his recent visit to Israel that he shared the nation's repugnance at the U.N. resolution, but he added "Israel's essential right to survival in the family of nations would not be best sustained by a mood of national isolationism, despair and uncompromising inflexibility".

LORD HIRSHFIELD ON TOP SALARIES REVIEW BODY

The Prime Minister has appointed Lord Hirschfield a member of the Top Salaries Review Body under the chairmanship of Lord Boyle. This body has the task of advising on the remuneration of the chairman and members of the boards of nationalised industries, high court judges, and the senior grades of the civil service and the armed forces.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Chief Rabbi in Phone-In

Answering a question on the relationship between Orthodox and Progressive Judaism, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits said on London Broadcasting's Phone-In programme that some of the differences were being narrowed but whilst there was a great deal of close collaboration in many fields, they could not be joined religiously "because of the Progressive rejection of the relevance of Sinai". Hebrew had to be retained in the Services because it united the Jewish people and gave them a sense of belonging. Prayers and psalms would be bereft of grandeur if recited in a secular language.

Half-price synagogue membership

The West London (Reform) Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, has for the first time offered half-price membership to married couples and single people under the age of 30. This is in addition to the congregation's long-standing system of allowing reduced rates to pensioners and other members on low fixed incomes. The Synagogue has 2,500 member families and charges a basic membership fee of £50 p.a. or £62 for seat-holders. Under the new scheme young people will be expected to pay £25 or less. Mr. Silverman, secretary of the synagogue explained that this was done because people must not "get the idea that membership is for a financial elite".

"Righteous Gentile" from Auschwitz

At a meeting of the Enfield Anglo-Israel Friendship League, Mr Charles Coward recounted his experiences as a prisoner-of-war at Auschwitz. The Germans had appointed him the representative of British prisoners and he said he had assisted in the escape of nearly 400 Jews, some of whom were unfortunately recaptured. He was declared a "Righteous Gentile" by an Israeli commission set up to honour those who had risked their lives in order to save Jews. A book, based on his reminiscences, "Passport to Courage" by John Castle, was published in 1954 (Souvenir Press). It carries a tribute written to him by the AJR.

US Ambassador appeals for Hillel Foundation

Mr. Eliot Richardson, U.S. Ambassador to Britain and newly appointed US Secretary of State for Commerce, was guest of honour at a dinner marking the coming of age of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation. He said that he had addressed many B'nai B'rith gatherings in the United States and had found that one of the major contributions made by the Hillel Foundation had been to maintain a sure anchorage.

Fewer Jews in Newcastle

Mr. Lewis Olsover, a local 72-year-old amateur historian, has twice carried out a census of Newcastle Jewry. According to him, the Jewish population has dropped from 2,500 to less than 2,000 during the last 25 years. He puts this down to immigration to Israel, falling birth-rate, increasing death-rate and inter-marriage and to the fact that students prefer to study in the larger cities, particularly London, Manchester and Leeds from where most of them never return. Mr. Olsover also reports that since 1955 the communities of Durham, North Shields, Hartlepool and Stockton have dwindled to nothing. Only at Gateshead numbers have been maintained owing to the many institutions of Jewish learning and the strong Orthodox background of the city.

Safest Old-Age Home in Britain

An elaborate new fire-prevention problem has probably made Donisthorpe Hall, the Leeds Home for Aged Jews, the safest building of its kind in Britain. The system is electronically controlled. "Electric eyes" will monitor corridors and rooms for traces of smoke or excess heat. In the event of a fire, all fire-doors are automatically closed, alarm bells sound and an emergency lighting system comes into operation.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

A Shofar for the Pope

After a three-week tour of Israel, Students of the Catholic Seton Hall University visited Rome and had an audience with the Pope. They presented him with a shofar inscribed with a hope for peace and reconciliation of all peoples. The tour had been sponsored by the America-Israel Friendship League.

Decoration for Chaplain

The Legion of Merit, one of America's highest awards, has been given to Captain Samuel Sobel, the first rabbi to serve as The Chaplain of the US Marine Corps, a title equivalent to Chief of Chaplains. The citation praises Rabbi Sobel for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 1937 to 1975." He was responsible for 200 chaplains of all faiths.

Cantor for Metropolitan Opera

Mischa Raitzin, the new cantor of the New York Sutton Place Synagogue, has been invited to sing at the Metropolitan Opera. Before his emigration to Israel, he sang with the Lenin-grad and Moscow operas.

For the abolition of torture

The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention which met at Geneva, adopted a declaration that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment should be banned. The congress was attended by 1,000 delegates from 90 countries, and representatives of the PLO attended as observers. Because of their presence, Canada had refused to be host country to the congress.

Amnesty International whose Campaign for the Abolition of Torture is in its third year, has declared itself satisfied with the declaration. In the preface to its annual report it states that Argentina, Iran, Iraq, Morocco and the USSR are countries "where violations of human rights continue on a disturbing scale." The report refers to allegations and accounts of torture in these countries as well as in Israel.

FRANCO AND THE JEWS

The Jewish community of Spain was not officially represented at General Franco's funeral, but leading members of Madrid and other communities attended in an individual capacity. In the presence of government officials, special services were held in the Madrid and Malaga synagogues, and the Madrid community, in a telegram to King Juan Carlos, expressed the hope that under his reign Jewish life in Spain would once more flourish.

Commenting on the general's death, a number of Jewish community leaders in Spain and other countries recalled that, in spite of his support for the Axis powers during the war, he had certainly granted asylum to a number of Jewish refugees, especially in 1940, after the fall of France. At the end of the war, he declared in public that there was no antisemitism in Spain.

300th ANNIVERSARY OF DUTCH JEWISH PRESS

To mark the 300th anniversary of the publication of the first Jewish paper in the world, the "Gazetta de Amsterdam", dated January 7, 1675, the Nieuw Israelietisch Weekblad, the only Jewish paper in the Netherlands, issued a facsimile reprint of the paper, which carries reports not only on local events but also up-to-date contributions by correspondents from other places, e.g. Naples, Venice and Strassburg. Some of the despatches had been sent off only a few days before the publication date, an indication of the efficient news service at a time when the present technical facilities did not yet exist.

SENTENCED FOR DEFAMATION OF PIUS XII

Mr. Robert Katz, the 41-year-old American Jewish author, has been found guilty by a Rome court of defaming Pope Pius XII in his book "Death in Rome" and sentenced to 14 months' suspended jail sentence. Mr. Carlo Ponti who produced the film "Massacre in Rome" based on the book, and the Greek director of the film, Mr. Kosmotos, each received a six-months' suspended sentence. The proceedings were brought by Contessa Rossigani, a 59-year-old niece of Pope Pius. The court decided that the Pope did not know of Nazi plans to murder 355 Romans, including many Jews, in the Ardeatine Caves near the city in March, 1944.

INDIGNATION AT PAPAL LETTER

Israeli authorities are shocked by a letter Pope Paul sent to Archbishop Capucci who was sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment for his collaboration with PLO terrorists. Weapons for terrorists had been found hidden in his official car. *The Times*, commenting on the letter, deplored the Vatican's failure to condemn the crime for which Capucci was convicted. William Rees-Mogg, editor of *The Times* is himself a Roman Catholic.

ANTISEMITIC REMARKS ON NORWEGIAN TV

In a television programme featuring leading supporters of neo-Nazi ideology, Olav Hoass, a secondary school teacher, said that "Hitler's gas chambers never existed. Jews who have seen other Jews sent to their deaths in the gas-chambers do not exist. Norwegian Jews who do not wish to leave the country voluntarily, should be isolated in a special community". The Attorney-General has brought a charge of infringing the law against racial discrimination.

FRANCE

Giscard's handshake with the PLO

On an official state visit to Tunisia, President Giscard d'Estaing was introduced to leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and had to shake hands with them. He said this had come as a surprise to him and he had reproached his hosts about it, but whilst it was a delicate matter, it was certainly not a catastrophe. As world opinion accepted that the Palestinians should have their own state, it was futile to refuse to listen to them or to leave them as a clandestine movement. For this reason he had permitted them to open an office in Paris.

PEACE PRIZE FOR ARAFAT

The Communist-backed World Peace Council awarded this year's Julien-Curie-Peace Prize to PLO chief Yasir Arafat "in recognition of his achievements in the Freedom Fight of the Palestinian Arabs".

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NEWS FROM THE EAST

CAMPAIGN AGAINST WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS

After January 1, 1976, 90 per cent of foreign currency gifts to Soviet Jews out of work because they want to emigrate to Israel, will be confiscated by the authorities. Hitherto the Foreign Trade Bank converted such gifts into special certificates, subject to a 35 per cent deduction. These certificates can be used for buying goods at the Beryozka stores which are not open to the general public, or sold for Soviet money at about six times the current exchange rate. After January 1, the bank will levy a further 30 per cent tax on the gifts and exchange the remaining currency at the official rate.

For the second year running, the number of emigrants has decreased by about 40 per cent. In 1971, a total of 12,300 Jews went to Israel, in 1972 there were 31,600, and 33,500 in 1973. In 1974 the total decreased by about 40 per cent to 21,000 of whom 17,000 settled in Israel. No more than 12,000 Jews are expected to leave the Soviet Union by the end of 1975, and it is estimated that between 30 and 40 per cent of those emigrating go to countries other than Israel.

BETH DIN IN RUSSIA

The Soviet authorities have sanctioned the setting-up of a Beth Din to deal with the cases of former Russian Jews living abroad who wish to divorce their husbands or wives who have remained behind in Russia. Rabbi Pinhas Teitz from New Jersey who secured these arrangements, stated during a visit to Israel that there were about 500 such cases awaiting to be settled.

A BABY CALLED MARY

Tsilia Levinson, whose husband is serving a six-year hard labour sentence in a Soviet prison, has named her baby daughter Mary Lilia after Mrs. Mary Wilson, wife of the Prime Minister. She said this was done in gratitude for Mr. Wilson's support of the free emigration of Soviet Jews.

ROMANIA

Israeli Aid for Romania

After the recent floods, the Romanian Government and the head of the Federation of Jewish communities, Rabbi Rosen, applied to Israel for help. The Hadassah immediately sent half a ton of medical supplies, and the League for Romano-Israeli Friendship issued an appeal to the public. The American Joint sent 10,000 dollars to be distributed to victims of the flood, irrespective of their religious affiliations.

Romania is the only Communist country not to have broken off diplomatic relations with Israel after the Six-Day War. Emigration to Israel continues unhindered. Before the war, Romanian Jewry numbered some 600,000 of whom about 300,000 were murdered by the Nazis. Of the remainder, most of the old have died, most of the young emigrated to Israel. Some 60,000 are left, divided into 70 communities. There is a daily flight each way between Tel Aviv and Bucharest, and there is a steady stream of Israeli tourists. There is also a fortnightly newspaper in Yiddish, Romanian and Hebrew.

POLES WANT TO FORGET THE JEWS

The Polish authorities have removed the memorial inscription in Yiddish from a stone tablet in the former concentration camp of Belzec. Of more than 600,000 inmates killed, all except 2,000 were Jews, mostly from Galicia.

In the Czestochowa industrial centre, part of the Jewish cemetery was demolished to provide extensions for a foundry.

Friedrich Walter

"CHALLENGE OF THE PAST"

The author of this memoir* which has a very appreciative foreword by Rabbi Dr. A. S. Super of Johannesburg is Mrs. Frieda H. Sichel who was born in Kassel in 1889. Her maiden name was Frieda Gotthelft and her family, the Gotthelfts, were for three generations, from 1853-1933, the owners and publishers of the "Kasseler Tageblatt", a notable and highly respected local paper. The story of her family as she tells it, is at the same time a valuable contribution to the history of the German Jews. Frieda Sichel and her relatives were fortunate enough to preserve some of the family papers and documents (reprinted in this book in facsimile) from which they can trace the origins of their family to about 1670. Their earliest ancestors lived in the tiny principality of Lippe-Detmold where they became, successively, "Hof-und Schutzjuden" of the reigning "Landgrafen".

The Gotthelfts of Kassel

One of them, Abraham Hertz, moved in 1799 from Bad Meinberg to Kassel. Some years later in 1808, when Napoleon I. after his conquests in Europe had installed his youngest brother Jérôme as King of Westphalia in Kassel, and according to a French decree, all Jews had to take surnames, this Abraham Hertz took the name of Gotthelft. From then on, from this act of the emancipation of the German Jews under French rule, until 1933 the history of the Gotthelft family was closely interwoven with German history. Their "bürgerliche Gleichberechtigung" was, like that of all other German Jews, never revoked under the more retrogressive German régimes between 1815 and 1848. In this revolutionary year of 1848 two Gotthelft brothers, Karl and Adolf, for whom their father Herz Gotthelft had bought a small printing plant, published an outspokenly liberal paper "Die Hornisse". Three years later it was suppressed by the conservative Elector of Hesse. But in 1853 the Gotthelft brothers were allowed to publish a strictly non-political daily paper, the "Gewerbliches Tageblatt und Anzeiger". When, after the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, Hesse was incorporated into Prussia, the "Kasseler Tageblatt" could represent—although on a more moderate line than "Die Hornisse"—the liberal views of its readers. It remained, with growing difficulties after the First World War, faithful to its political line of the "middle ground" until, in 1933, it was suppressed by the Nazi régime. Its most happy and prosperous years were those between 1871 and 1914 when, within the growing economic prosperity of the German Reich, it developed from a small undertaking to an ever larger and more modern enterprise. It enjoyed the special favour of Kaiser Wilhelm II. whose summer residence was "Schloss Wilhelmshöhe" in Kassel. He bestowed the "Koenigliches Hoflieferanten-Wappen" on the Gotthelft printing firm. One of the apprentices of the "Kasseler Tageblatt" in the eighteenthies was Philipp Scheidemann who in 1919 became the Social Democratic Reichskanzler.

In the second part of her memoirs Frieda Sichel tells the story of her own life. She grew up in the secure and peaceful atmosphere of an upper middle-class family which, as so many other German-Jewish families, was a patron of the arts and, at the same time, highly conscious of its social responsibilities. She studied

Political Economy in Freiburg, München, Berlin and Heidelberg and graduated with a thesis on John Stuart Mills. Among her teachers were Franz Oppenheimer and Max Weber of whom she gives us short but very lively portraits. During World War I she worked as a statistician in various Government offices. In 1918 she married her cousin Karl Sichel, an architect who died in 1972. There are two children of this marriage, a son and a daughter. After 1933 she worked very actively and effectively for the Provincial Jewish Welfare Board in Kassel, the "Hilfsverein der deutschen Juden" and the "Reichsvertretung" in Berlin. This work brought her in contact with Dr. Leo Baeck, Bertha Pappenheim and Hannah Karminski. In 1935 the Sichels emigrated to Johannesburg. Here, Frieda Sichel continued her work in assisting other families to emigrate and in helping them to resettle in South Africa.

One cannot better sum up her and her husband's efforts and merits than did Leo Baeck in a letter to the Chief Rabbi Landau of Johannesburg:

"Both are distinguished people who in the Jewish sphere not only of their hometown but further afield, have always been most devotedly active. Our social work in former years and during the last difficult times owes them a great deal".

Frieda Sichel herself emerges from her reminiscences as a very energetic, clear-headed and far-sighted woman. On the first page of her book she states that:

"... these memoirs are written for those of the present and future generations who want to know more about their roots, their background, where they came from, particularly now that they are scattered to the four corners of the earth".

In this purpose she has succeeded admirably—all the more so as in her memoirs we are again and again vividly reminded of the strongly local and regional elements and differences in the history of the German Jews which made for the variety, diversity and richness of Jewish life in Germany. This reminder is all the more valuable as the history of the German Jews, when now written by a younger generation who did not witness the actual events, tends all too often to give us a rather abstract, uniform and generalised picture of German Jewry.

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THANKS AND GOOD WISHES

85th Birthday of Mr. Alfred S. Dresel

The 85th birthday of Mr. Alfred S. Dresel on January 3 provides us with a welcome opportunity to express to him anew our deep feelings of affection and gratitude. Though two years ago he gave up his office as chairman of the AJR, he agreed to retain his connections with his colleagues and to remain a member of the Executive. Thus, as throughout the past two decades, we still have the benefit of his counsel, which is based on his long-standing experience, his innate prudence and his gift as a negotiator.

These qualities have also been of invaluable importance in his work as a member, and for many years, chairman of the management committee for the Homes, jointly administered by the AJR and the CBF. In fact, as he once put it on a special occasion, it is the work for the Homes which among his many activities for his fellow refugees has always been particularly near to his heart. Whilst in the fulfilment of this task, new problems are bound to crop up incessantly, the difficulties which had to be overcome appeared almost insurmountable during the building stage of the Flatlet Home, Eleanor Rathbone House. It is doubtful whether this venture would have materialised but for the tenacity, imagination and indelible optimism of Mr. Dresel.

Yet his work for the Homes must not make us overlook the guidance he has given to the AJR in other spheres of its widespread activities. Equally, his professional training as a lawyer, linked with economic experience gained in his former managerial position with the old Berlin banking house of Mendelssohn & Co., was of decisive value for the Council of Jews from Germany, when the legislation on restitution and compensation had to be negotiated with the German authorities. During those years, Mr. Dresel was one of the effective spokesmen of the victims of the Nazi régime. At the same time, many persecutees owe the settlement of their own claims to his successful work as their legal representative.

We are pleased that, after a brief recent illness, Mr. Dresel is again as active and vigorous as all of us used to know him, and we wish him unimpaired health for a long time to come.

W.R.

ANNA SEGHERS 75

Anna Seghers who recently celebrated her 75th birthday, was a Jewish writer who showed great promise when her first novel *Der Aufstieg der Fischer von St. Barbara* was published by Kiepenheuer in 1928 and was awarded the Kleist Prize by the Kleist Foundation under the chairmanship of Hans Henny Jahnn. She was born Netty Reiling in Mainz, the daughter of a well-to-do family, and even at that early date the *Völkische Beobachter* protested against the award to a "rich Jewess at a time when true German poets were starving". The prize amounted to RM 1500, not quite £100 at the time! Later on she published a novel about Hitler Germany *Das Siebente Kreuz* which was acclaimed all over the world. She had joined the Communist Party in 1928 and spent the war years in Mexico. After the war she returned to East Berlin.

E.G.L.

LITERARY AWARD TO BLIND AUTHOR

More than 40 countries participated in a competition for blind authors, organised by the Jewish Braille Institute of America. Pearl S. Buck, herself a Nobel Prize winner in the literary field, was for many years chairman of the Jury. One of the 1975 awards went to Alexander Czarski, who lost his eyesight as the result of persecution and deprivation in Eastern camps where he worked as a mining engineer. In 1957 he emigrated from his native Poland to Israel and has since published a number of remarkable novels and short stories in Polish, German and Hebrew. At the moment he is on a lecture tour through Germany, Switzerland and Austria on the subject "Israel under pressure from three worlds".

*"Challenge of the Past", published in Johannesburg and sponsored by B'nai B'rith Lodge, Johannesburg and First B'nai B'rith Women's Chapter of South Africa. £2-00.

E. G. Lowenthal

THE PRUSSIAN "LANDESVERBAND"

50th Anniversary of its First Assembly

About fifty years ago, in the early summer of 1925, the delegates of the Prussian Landesverband of the Jewish Communities assembled for their first association congress in Berlin. Kammergerichtsrat Leo Wolff, chairman of the board of the Berlin Jewish community (who died in London in 1958), was elected president; the vice-presidents elected were the Zionist leader Dr. Alfred Klee-Berlin, a lawyer who perished in Westerbork concentration camp in 1943, Landgerichtsrat Dr. Arthur Lilienthal, a Liberal, who was deported to the East in 1942, and the Conservative Adolf Schoyer, later co-founder and first chairman of the AJR who died in Berlin in 1961 after his return from emigration. All four of them carried on in their office in an honorary capacity as long as the Landesverband existed, i.e. until 1938. The congress formed a "Council" ("Rat") which in turn elected from within its ranks a "Select Committee" ("Engerer Rat") of ten members to conduct the daily business.

Elected on Democratic Principles

The roughly 125 delegates to the Landesverband's assembly had been elected on the basis of democratic principles in 13 election districts which were on the whole identical with one or several Prussian provinces; the large communities of Berlin (then with 172,600 Jewish inhabitants), Breslau (23,200), Frankfurt (29,400) and Cologne (16,000), formed election districts of their own. In 1925, the number of communities affiliated in the Landesverband was 650. Roughly 403,000, i.e. over two-thirds, of the 562,000 professing Jews in the Reich were resident in Prussia. Apart from their numerical majority, Jews in Prussia exercised an influence on the political, intellectual and spiritual life which far transcended the Land itself, so that a corresponding importance could have been accorded to the Landesverband.

The main preparatory work, including draft statutes, had been done by Dr. (jur) Ismar Freund (died in 1956 in Jerusalem) who was extremely well versed in these matters, having both rabbinical and legal qualifications; as early as 1919 he had already worked out the draft for the constitution of a Reichsverband.

The objective of the Prussian Landesverband was to unite the synagogue communities in the promotion of their interests. Its tasks included the advancement of religious life of the communities, financial support of the poorer communities, protection of the legal and financial position of communal officials, creation and preservation of cultural institutions and co-operation in the preparation of acts concerning the legal position of the communities.

From 1925 onwards the Landesverband Congress met once a year, as a rule in the dignified and impressive plenary hall of the former Prussian "Herrenhaus" (Upper House). Leading men of Prussian Jewry were to be seen in the front rows of the seats which were arranged in a half-circle: On the right side among the 17 Conservatives were Dr. Adolf Altmann, Chief Rabbi of Trier, next to him the lawyer Abba Horowitz (from Frankfurt/Main, later on a co-founder of the AJR) and Rabbi Dr. Ludwig Rosenthal (Cologne); in the centre, among the representatives of

the Liberal faction, the strongest one numbering 70 members, were Dr. Ludwig Hollaender, director of the "C.-V.", and lawyers Dr. Julius Brodnitz, Dr. Heinrich Elkeles, Dr. Julius Seligsohn, Heinrich Stern and Bruno Weil; on the left, where the 31 Zionists (including Poale Zion) sat, there were, among others, Alfred Berger, Kurt Blumenfeld, Dr. Oscar Cohn, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Ministerialrat Hans Goslar and lawyer Dr. Max Kollenscher. The (Berlin) Religious Centre Party ("For Peace and Unity of the Community") had six deputies.

A section of the Orthodox Jews was organised separately in the "Preussische Landesverband gesetzestreuer Synagogengemeinden" which, as it was based on Halberstadt was referred to for short as the "Halberstaedter Verband".

The congress of the Prussian Landesverband proceeded strictly according to parliamentary rules which were sometimes excessively rigorously applied. Heated ideological discussions were not infrequent and the polemics indulged in proved often to be detrimental to positive work.

Assistance to Small Communities

To give an example of the practical business discharged by congress, we may recall the principal subject matters and problems discussed at the last meeting on April 3 and 4, 1932: The Government Bill for a new Prussian law concerning Jews (amending the 1847 Law regulating conditions of the Jewish communities); topical problems of German politics; internal Jewish ideological matters; assistance for the poor communities; problems relating to District Rabbi's offices, shortage of teachers and teachers' training; pensions insurance for Jewish officials; the problem of kosher slaughter and butchering and, once again, the question of the "Reichsverband".

The Prussian Landesverband had also set up an economic committee which was chiefly occupied with alleviating the increasing

plight of the middle class and the working people. From 1933 onwards this special committee set up central offices for Jewish economic aid and for Jewish loan funds which were eventually incorporated as departments in the Reichsvertretung.

It was the great merit of the Prussian Landesverband that, by means of financial equalisation and adjustment and by making use of State subsidies it kept hundreds of small- and medium-sized communities alive.

Between 1933 and 1938

In view of the fact that from 1933 onwards all central problems were dealt with by the newly established "Reichsvertretung", the bulk of the work done by the Landesverband shifted to problems of the communities and this all the more as their economic, social and cultural troubles visibly increased owing to the growing migration of members from the small- and medium-sized communities into the large communities. Frequently it became necessary to disregard community borders and to merge several communities into districts under the care of one official. To this had to be added the preservation and enhancement of religious and cultural life above all in communities which no longer had any teaching and religious officials of their own and were at risk of social isolation. This is why the Landesverband began to dispatch sermons to lay leaders on the occasion of High Holy-days. Speakers and artists were sent on "cultural tours" into small- and medium-sized communities and a mobile library was created.

After 1933, the Congress of the Prussian Landesverband was no longer convened for economy's sake, but certainly not only for that reason. However, the "Council" and above all the "Select Committee" continued to meet as the leading and responsible bodies.

In 1938, the tasks of the Landesverband were transferred to the "Reichsverband der Juden in Deutschland" which had been set up on the basis of the Nazi "Law regulating the legal position of the Jewish communities", promulgated on March 28 of that year. The communities, which thus lost their character of public-law bodies and turned into legal entities in civil law, had now become direct members of this new Reich organisation set up by coercive measures. Thus the Landesverband disappeared as independent associations of Jewish communities. This also meant the end of the Prussian Landesverband.

The "Council" of the Prussian Landesverband met for the last time on July 26, 1938; its deliberations took place under the pressure of the new regulation. It is in this spirit that the official resolution passed on this occasion must be understood. It said inter alia: "Following the formation of the Reichsverband, the Council . . . desires the Prussian Landesverband to merge in the former and it authorises the Select Committee to set in motion all the necessary steps to this effect." This happened 15 weeks before the November pogrom which abruptly put an end to the still existing remnants of Jewish self-administration.

For a long time now the Prussian Landesverband of Jewish Communities has been past history. However, the existence of this beneficial organisation which came into being during the last phase of German Jewry and whose development can only be briefly outlined here, remains of considerable interest to the historian and this is borne out by the fact that the Leo Baeck Institute in New York has prevailed upon one of the few surviving members of the Landesverband who now lives in Israel, to write an objective history of this body. So far hardly any preparatory scientific material for such a history exists.

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C. C. Aronsfeld

GREAT-HEARTED CHAMPION OF JUSTICE

In Memoriam Irene Harand

The death earlier last year of a gallant Christian woman who fought the good fight passed almost unnoticed among those who have cause to remember her, and it seems fitting that her story be gratefully recorded, however briefly, on these pages.

Irene Harand who died in New York was a devout Austrian Catholic who never ceased to denounce antisemitism not so much as a threat to Jews but rather as a danger to all claiming to be civilised and especially to Christians. She spread her ideas, from 1933 until 1938, in her own weekly paper entitled *Gerechtigkeit* whose every issue carried the caption "I am fighting antisemitism because it defiles our Christianity". She was determined not to stand by idly while Hitler arose. In the face of such an abomination, she declared, "doing nothing is a crime". Like Antigone, she insisted that her duty was to join not in hate but in love—in fellow-feeling with the suffering and the persecuted.

The first thing she did, then a young woman of 32, was to write, in March 1933, a brochure on "The Truth about Antisemitism". This brochure which also appeared in Polish was published on behalf of the Austrian People's Party in which Frau Harand then held an official position.

A few months later she launched out on her own. She had a two-fold approach. She clearly recognised antisemitism as something rather more than an obsession. It was a tool of power politics, she declared; it had served to achieve *Gleichschaltung* inside Germany; it was being used to destroy Austrian independence, and those who supported it, she warned, were aiding forces bent on war.

At the same time, she suggested economic reforms, designed to deny Nazi as well as Communist propaganda the chance of exploitation. The programme which she vigorously expounded was conspicuous for its good will rather than its concrete application. She believed that "the problem of a just and sensible distribution of the world's goods definitely can be solved by tolerance and understanding".

In September 1933 she founded her paper *Gerechtigkeit* which by 1936 sold 28,000 copies; many more thousands were distributed gratis. Gradually too she built up a "World Organisation against Racial Hatred and Human Distress (Harand Movement)" which in 1936 claimed to have 36,000 members in various parts of the world, and in 1935 she published a book "Sein Kampf: Eine Antwort an Hitler", in which Nazidom was exposed for the benefit of "those in Germany who have not lost every feeling of shame". Pathetic hopes were set especially on "the high army leaders in Germany" who were expected to "realise the noble service they would render their fatherland if they threw the Nazis out of office".

Of course she was slandered, harassed and attacked. Many of her public meetings in Vienna were banned to appease the Germans' displeasure. But she kept up the fight. She also carried the message abroad. She travelled far and addressed meetings in Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Scandinavia, France, Belgium, also in Britain and U.S.A. Among her friends were Lord Cecil, Julian Huxley, the Rev. James Parkes. At home she struck up a close association with a Jewish

social worker, Dr. Moritz Zalmann, who implanted in her a solid knowledge of Judaism as well as a love of the Jewish people.

In 1937 her book was published in English and in French. A French edition of her paper also began to appear, a Czech edition was planned, a Polish one discontinued on account of financial troubles. Finance was also the reason why a "world congress" of the Harand Movement, planned for May 1937, could not be held.

At the time of the *Anschluss*, Frau Harand fortunately was abroad; the Nazis had put a high price on her head. The last issue of *Gerechtigkeit* (No. 236) appeared on March 10, 1938 and carried an editorial by her entitled "Without Hate" and dated London, March 8. The article does honour to her sentiments but gravely fails to vindicate her political judgement. She mentions with surprise that she had received many letters, "even from the United States, suggesting that Austria's freedom and independence were in danger!" She goes on: "Pessimists are making sombre forecasts, declaring that the Nazis will advance. I don't consider this possible as the real power in Austria rests in the hands of our Government headed by Chancellor Dr. Schuschnigg . . . Behind Schuschnigg stands the overwhelming majority of the Austrian people". It was a grievous, if honourable, error.

Frau Harand did not stay in London. She left for the United States where she had previously been greeted as an heiress to the tradition of Jane Adams. In 1943 she was Director of the Women's Division of the New York Anti-Nazi League. Tirelessly she continued her charitable work, trying to rescue Jewish families by securing the much coveted affidavits, and those who so owe her their survival are not a few. Fittingly, she was highly honoured on her visit to Israel in 1969 as one of the "Righteous of the Gentiles" and a tree was planted in her name at Yad Vashem.

She also visited the land of her birth once or twice but never settled there again. As a director of the Austrian Forum at the New York Austrian Institute which she had founded for the purpose of assisting exiled Austrian artists and authors, she devoted herself to the promotion of Austrian-American cultural relations, and this work took up most of her last years. Now the storm-tossed soul is resting from her labours. May she rest in peace.

(After this article was written it was learned that the urn with the ashes of Irene Harand's remains was re-interred at the Vienna Crematorium. At the ceremony, an address was given by Professor Cary Hauser, President of the "Aktion gegen den Antisemitismus" in Vienna.—The Ed.)

KEEPING THE AJR GOING

This is the first issue of the 1976 volume of AJR Information.

Our members have repeatedly stressed the importance of our journal. They not only appreciate its general standard but also consider it an indispensable source of information, especially in the field of compensation and related subjects. During the past year, there has hardly been any issue which did not carry important announcements on questions of Social Insurance, Lastenausgleich, Registration of losses in the territory of the GDR and, last but not least, Taxation. There are quite a few cases in which persons entitled to certain claims have missed the deadline because, not being members of the AJR, they do not receive this journal. It also sometimes happens that non-members ask for copies of a special issue when they have heard that it carries an announcement of importance to them. These requests cannot be met with. The despatch of AJR Information is restricted to members of the AJR.

Financially, the production of AJR Information is a constant problem. The printing costs have doubled since 1971, and further rises are to be expected shortly. Readers also know only too well that in 1975 alone the postage went up twice; this considerably increases the burden involved in monthly despatches of 4,500 copies. Considering the expenditure for printing and posting, the present out-of-pocket expenditure per copy amounts to about £3 per year. Yet this does not include the substantial overhead expenses, e.g. the editorial and administrative work of the AJR staff and the use of the AJR premises and other services. Taking all this into account it can be stated that any membership contribution which does not exceed £5 only represents the equivalent for the regular delivery of "AJR Information". Our subscriptions are, however, also required to carry out our manifold other activities. The success in the field of taxation is only one of the recent examples for the need of a strong organisation which can act as the recognised spokesman of the community, and our manifold welfare services, especially for the elderly, are of no less importance.

As far as we can judge before our accounts have been audited, it appears that, compared with 1974, there will be an increase in income, which will, however, be considerably below the increase in expenditure.

It is most gratifying and also an encouragement as the expression of appreciation of our efforts, that of their own accord quite a few of our friends have almost annually increased their subscriptions or supplemented them by donations. We hope that, as far as they are able to do so, they will continue to help us in this way to overcome the effect inflation has on our work, and that their example will be followed by other members as well.

NELLY-SACHS-PRIZE FOR ELIAS CANETTI

The writer Elias Canetti who spent the war years in Britain and has still made this country his second home, was awarded the £4,000 Nelly-Sachs-Prize of Dortmund. Canetti's controversial novels, his diaries and his philosophical essay "Power and the Masses" are regarded as belonging to the most important writings of this century.

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IN MEMORY OF S. ADLER-RUDEL

A LIFE FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Scholem Adler-Rudel, whose passing away in Jerusalem on November 14 at the age of 81, is deeply mourned not only by his many friends and by all those who were privileged to work with him at one time or another, but also by all who benefited from his dedication to helping people in distress through many decades in Vienna, Berlin, London and Jerusalem. He was one of the architects, perhaps the principal, of modern Jewish social policy in Germany during the inter-war period. From 1924 onwards he was director of the *Arbeiterfürsorgeamt* in the Auguststrasse in Berlin, that unique institution, whose initiator and first director Fritz Mordehai Kaufmann had died in 1921. He remained in charge when in 1929 this organisation was transferred to the *Wohlfahrtsamt* of the Berlin Jewish Community, and it was only logical that he later placed his unsurpassed gifts and experience in this field at the service of the *Reichsvertretung* after the catastrophe of 1933. All this time Rudel was a *getreuer Eckart* and a sort of *Schutzengel* of all those in need of help, and especially of the Eastern Jews who had been driven to Germany during the war and in its aftermath. Of the endeavours during this turbulent and difficult period he has himself given an account in his book *Ostjuden in Deutschland*, which has by now been recognised as an authentic source for orientation on this important but somewhat complicated subject.

But any enumeration of Rudel's activities and official missions is transcended by his extraordinary personality. He was a man of rare humanity and compassion, a man of natural intelligence and common sense, an idealist of personal charm and conciliatory manners, full of fervour to fight injustice and inhumanity and to do his utmost in helping those who were committed to his care. His modesty did not allow him to boast of his own merits when reporting about the work achieved by the institutions under his guidance.

Rudel's political affiliation has been determined by his origin from the Eastern Austrian provinces (he was born in Czernowitz) and his observation of the miserable existence of the numerous Jewish proletariat. With these wretched and humiliated people he felt close solidarity, and when in the first decade of the century a sort of national and social awakening seized the Yiddish-speaking masses, Rudel joined the Poale Zion party whose platform combining national and social revival was exactly what he was looking for. The war of 1914 drove a huge mass of Jewish refugees from the east to Vienna which became a centre of Eastern Jews, and there Rudel came into close contact with Western members of the youth movements and also with Zionist leaders whom he deeply respected.

My own memories of Adler-Rudel go back to these early days in Vienna almost sixty years ago when he was a junior member of Poale Zion. Towards the end of the war the clamour for Jewish rights in Palestine and in the Diaspora became vociferous, unprecedented mass meetings and demonstrations took place in Vienna, for which the eastern refugees provided the bulk of participants. A coalition of Jewish nationalist parties set up a Council under the chairmanship of Robert Stricker and Adolf Böhm, somewhat magniloquently but in conformity with contemporary terminology called *Jüdischer Nationalrat für Oesterreich* which submitted to the government a memorandum with its demands for a

kind of national autonomy. An office was established in the Taborstrasse, in Vienna's second district, where the masses of Eastern Jews lived, and I was appointed general political secretary. Rudel was head of its vital department for vocational advice and re-training of young people and demobilised soldiers. When curtailed Austria practically disintegrated because of inflation and political difficulties, Rudel was called to Berlin in 1919 to reorganise the staggering social work and especially to cope with the overwhelming problems arising from the Question of Eastern European Jews. I, too, was summoned to Berlin to become editor of the *Jüdische Rundschau*. So we met again in Berlin, and I had an opportunity of watching Rudel's patient and able handling of his difficult task and his rise to the position of the supreme expert in the field.

One of the more remarkable effects of this period of Rudel's career was his intimate relationship with the representative bodies of German Jewry, which in their majority at that time were the very opposite of Rudel's political ideals: they were assimilationists and their way of life and thought was bourgeois. Yet in this encounter Rudel learned to look beneath the surface of cliché slogans; in matters which were of a non-political human character he discovered a community of views which surprised him. He often related how he learned to appreciate this type of Jew which for the average *Ostjude* had sometimes been a target of hostility or satire. He became an admirer of German Jews and their understanding of the pertinent problems, of their Jewish loyalty, sense of duty and selfless devoted work in the hour of bitter crisis. He also enjoyed the support of men like Siegfried Moses who, since 1920 (when he gave a lecture about social policy at the Convention of the German Zionist Federation), was in the Zionist camp one of the principal advocates of the urgency of modern social work, and the co-operation of men like Werner Senator, Alfred Berger, Max Kreutzberger and the congenial circle of the famous Berlin *Jüdische Volksheim* (established in 1916 under the

leadership of Siegfried Lehmann and Gertrude Welkanoz).

Rudel often sensed that the Judaism of German Jewry was underrated by the more nationalist *Ostjuden*. This was one of the motives which after 1945 made him one of the most eager champions of the idea to preserve its memory by collecting all pertinent documents and by putting on record German Jewry's achievements. Having himself been a member of leading German-Jewish officialdom, he joined in the last period of his life the Leo Baeck Institute and was for fifteen years Director of the Institute's Office in Jerusalem. He also contributed important historical essays and reminiscences to the Institute's Year Book of which I mention only his thoroughly documented profile of the great philanthropist Baron Hirsch (Founder of ICA) and his exciting and deeply moving report on his 1943 mission to Sweden on behalf of the Jewish Agency, with the intention of obtaining a permit for the entry of 20,000 Jewish children in order to rescue them from the gas chambers; the mission failed, alas, but the story is an example of the insensible attitude of Allied and neutral authorities in the face of the Jewish catastrophe, and also of Rudel's own diplomatic ability and personal devotion. His last publication *Jüdische Selbsthilfe unter dem Naziregime 1933-39* gives a lucid and well organised survey of the activities of the *Reichsvertretung* and its departments during the period when it was still possible to do constructive work in favour of the forsaken Jews in Germany, in the field of economic aid, education, social care and emigration.

ROBERT WELTSCH.

¹ Published in 1959 by the Leo Baeck Institute, J. C. B. Mohr Tübingen.

² Details in Robert Weltsch, *Jüdischer Nationalrat für Deutschösterreich* (English). Published in "Michael", Year Book of the Diaspora Research Institute Tel Aviv University, Vol. II, Tel Aviv 1973.

³ Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Institute, Band 29, J.C.B. Mohr Tübingen 1974.

CO-FOUNDER OF AJR

With the death of Scholem Adler-Rudel the life of a constructive, versatile worker and an amiable personality has come to an end. Those who mourn his departure include many who had become his friends when he worked with them during the years he spent in London. In a similar way, in which in Germany he, as a newcomer, had succeeded to gain the respect and understanding of the representatives of the "settled" Jewish community, his knowledge and experience was recognised in this country, when he left Germany to work as a liaison officer between the Jewish organisations in Germany and the British and international relief organisations in London. Especially during the turbulent months between the November 1938 pogroms and the outbreak of war, Britain became one of the main countries of refuge for the Nazi persecutees in Central Europe. Rudel, who knew the background and mentality of the fugitives became one of their most trusted spokesmen and effective helpers. He was, therefore, also one of the small band of those who, under most difficult circumstances, founded the AJR as their representative body in 1941, and he served as a member of its Executive until he went to Israel in 1948. By his experience and widespread connections, his work for the benefit of the AJR was particularly valuable.

He maintained his contacts with his colleagues at the AJR after his emigration to Israel and continued his work for our community as director of the Jerusalem section of the Leo Baeck Institute and as a member of the Council of Jews from Germany. Thus his numerous friends in this country feel united in their sense of loss with his colleagues in Israel. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his wife and his daughter and her family.

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IN MEMORIAM

A COURAGEOUS CLERGYMAN

Death of Propst D. Heinrich Grueber

Among those personalities who did not compromise with the Nazi régime and courageously lent their help to the persecutees, the name of Propst D. Heinrich Grueber deserves a special place. A few weeks ago, he died in Berlin at the age of 84.

One of the activists of the "Professing Church", he founded the "Hilfsstelle fuer evangelische Rasseverfolgte", better known as "Buero Grueber" in Berlin, An der Stechbahn. He often extended his help to those who did not belong to the group of people for which the organisation was actually established. As a result of his activities he was a prisoner in the concentration camps of Sachsenhausen and Dachau from 1940-1943.

After the war, Propst Grueber founded the "Hilfsstelle fuer ehemals Rasseverfolgte", which is still operating. His name is perpetuated in the Home for the Aged in Zehlendorf which predominantly accommodates people of this group. Yet Propst Grueber's courageous attitude was also gratefully recognised in Jewish quarters. He was the first non-Jew, who was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati (1962), and in 1967 he was included by Yad Vashem (Jerusalem) in the "Group of the Righteous". As a witness in the Eichmann Trial he contributed important first-hand information to the findings of the Court. Propst Grueber also worked for Jewish-Christian understanding, and he repeatedly undertook lecture tours to Britain, the U.S. and, above all, Israel.

E.G.L.

BENNO COHN

Benno Cohn, who played a leading part in the German Zionist movement and, after his emigration, in Eretz Israel, has died in his 82nd year. Originating from the Blau-Weiss and one of the early pre-1933 settlers of that movement in Palestine, he returned to Germany and became a lawyer. From 1933 onwards, he was one of the central figures in the Meinekestrasse headquarters of the Zionist organisation. He stayed at his post until the organisation was dissolved after the November pogroms. After his emigration to Israel, he first became secretary of the organisation of Jews from Central Europe (Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa). After the establishment of the State of Israel he obtained responsible positions in the public service. From 1951 until he retired in 1961, he was Director of the State Disciplinary Court. In 1961, he was elected a member of the Knesset. Based on his experience under the Nazis, he was an important witness in the Eichmann Trial.

As a Board member of the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa and of the Israel Section of the Leo Baeck Institute Benno Cohn always closely co-operated with his fellow immigrants from Germany.

DR. HANNAH ARENDT

Dr. Hannah Arendt, the outstanding political and social philosopher, died in New York at the age of 69. Born in Hanover, she grew up in Koenigsberg, and after completion of her studies gained her doctorate in Heidelberg as a pupil of Karl Jaspers. When the Nazis came to power she went to Paris where she was secretary of the French branch of Youth Aliyah from 1935-1938. In 1940, she found refuge in the United States, together with her husband, the art historian and philosopher, Dr. Heinrich Bluecher, who died in 1970. After the war, she was for several years executive secretary of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, an organisation responsible for the redistribution of Jewish libraries which had been confiscated by the Nazis.

One of her published works, "Eichmann in Jerusalem" caused a stir among Jews because in it she maintained that without the co-operation of Jewish leadership, the machinery of the "Final Solution" would not have functioned so efficiently. Like other organisations and personalities the "Council of Jews from Germany" vigorously protested against this denigration of the memory of those Jewish martyrs who, due to their responsible positions, were faced with insoluble tasks and who, in their vast majority, tried their very best to alleviate the position until they themselves also became the victims of their Nazi masters.

Other publications by Hannah Arendt, which were widely acclaimed due to their originality and their scholarly level include "The Origins of Totalitarianism" (1951), Rahel Varnhagen—The Life of a Jewess" and "The Burden of our Time".

A JEWISH ALBERT SCHWEITZER

Dr. Israel Susman who died in Beckenham at the age of 51, worked for some twenty years in Ghana Leprosy Control and in leprosy clinics in Togo, India and elsewhere. He learned several native languages and dialects so that he could visit obscure villages and give leprosy patients the benefits of modern medicine. Throughout his life, he remained a religious Jew who loved to attend the Seder Services at the Togo Israeli Embassy.

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RABBI DR. GEORG SALZBERGER

The community of former refugees has suffered a grave loss by the death of Rabbi Dr. Georg Salzberger, few days before his 93rd birthday. The news reached us when this issue went to press, and tribute to his outstanding personality will be paid in our next edition.

MARGOT KLAUSNER—A PIONEER OF THE ARTS

Margot Klausner who died in Herzliah a few days after her 70th birthday, has done more than any other individual to transfer European Jewish art to Israel. The daughter of wealthy Berlin Jews, who owned the Leiser shoe firm, she came to Israel in 1925 to work in a Kibbutz. Two years later she returned to Berlin to prepare for the transfer of *Habima*, the only Hebrew theatre at the time, to Palestine. Having achieved her aim, she returned and remained a director of the theatre until 1936 when *Habima* became the National Theatre. Together with her husband Jehoshua Brandstaetter she opened a theatre publishing house and founded the Israel Motion Pictures in Herzliah which have since become the most important film and television studios in the Middle East. Her home was a meeting-place for writers, musicians and artists. She also took a great interest in the occult and was founder and president of the Israeli Parapsychological Society as well as a member of the London Society for Psychic Research.

PROFESSOR WERNER EHRENBERG

Emeritus Professor Werner Ehrenberg, who died at his Wembley home at the age of 74, was, as *The Times* writes in its obituary "one of the fast dwindling band of brilliant physicists whom Germany lost when the Nazis came to power". He was professor at Birkbeck College until his retirement in 1968. His fields of research included electronics, and his major work "Electric conduction in semiconductors and metals" was published in 1958.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

ROYAL SOCIETY HONOURS SCIENTIST

London-born Professor Henri Zvi Tabor of the Scientific Research Foundation in Jerusalem was awarded the Royal Society's Esso Gold Medal jointly with Professor H. C. Hottel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They also share £1,000 prize money. The prize recognises their pioneering contributions to the science and technology of solar energy collection. Professor Tabor, 58, emigrated to Israel in 1945 to join its Research Council. Five years later, he set up the national physical laboratory which he directed until 1974.

SMUGGLED FASHION GOODS

Two London women, Jane Whitmore and Maureen McFadden were each fined £170—or three months' jail in default—for attempting to smuggle fashion goods into the country for a Jerusalem boutique owner.

WEST-GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ISRAEL

The West German Foreign Minister, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, paid a three-day visit to Israel, where political and economical issues were discussed. Israel's trade deficit with West Germany amounts to more than £225 million, and Mr. Genscher promised to work for closer economic co-operation.

TOO MANY ABORTIONS

At a meeting of the British Council of the Shaare Zadek Hospital, Jerusalem, Chief Rabbi Jakobovits asked for chairs in medical ethics to be set up in Israel medical schools. He said that according to figures published by the Israeli Medical Association, some 40,000 abortions were carried out in Israel every year. That meant that since the establishment of the State of Israel, something like one million potential sabras had been aborted, making a mockery of the campaign to attract immigrants.

C. G. JUNG EXHIBITION IN JERUSALEM

A comprehensive exhibition in honour of the life and work of the Swiss psychologist C. G. Jung who was born in 1875 was opened in Jerusalem. Apart from books and biographical items contributed by the Swiss Jung Institute, the exhibition includes a great number of books and periodicals published by Israeli Jungian psycho-analysts. An entire section is devoted to the controversial subject of Jung's attitude towards Jews and Judaism. During the early days of Nazi rule in Germany, he published a number of writings which revealed his sympathy with Nazi ideology. When the war ended, Leo Baeck refused to meet him, but later relented in order to listen to his explanations. Dr. Dreifuss, chairman of the Israeli Association of Analytical Psychologists said: "We know that some of the writings and actions of Jung in 1934/35 are open to misinterpretation, and they were indeed wrong at the time. Jewish analysts, however, are convinced that he was not an antisemite. "His interpretation of the symbolic language of the Bible, the Jewish Legends and of the Kabbala remains a key to the understanding of these writings and of their individual and collective meaning".

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

Petrie.—Mrs. Margarethe Petrie (formerly Ballin), of Otto Schiff House, 14 Netherhall Gardens, London, N.W.3, will celebrate her 80th birthday on January 3.

Deaths

Bochenek.—Mrs. Else Bochenek died on November 29, 1975, in Manchester. Sadly missed by her grandchildren, son-in-law, sister and relations and friends at home and abroad.

Felix.—Mrs. Jenny Felix, Quito/Ecuador (formerly Iserlohn, Germany) passed away on October 12 at the age of 82 years. Remembered with great affection by her family.

Kaczynski.—Mrs. Edith Kaczynski (née Bach) passed away after a long illness on November 29, 1975. Deeply mourned by her children and grandchildren.

Katzenstein.—Selma Katzenstein, of 18 Canfield Gardens, London, N.W.6, widow of Dr. Willy Katzenstein (formerly of Bielefeld), died peacefully on November 27, 1975, at the age of 93. She was greatly loved and will be sadly missed by her daughters, Marianne Bern and Eva Roberts, their families and her many friends.

Lopatka.—Mr. Max Lopatka died peacefully in his sleep at his home, 10 Thornfield Avenue, London, N.W.7, on November 28, 1975. He is deeply mourned by his wife Gertraud, his sons Heinz and Klaus, his grandson Michael, his sister and all his relatives and friends.

Mayer.—Mrs. Mathilde Luise Mayer of 3 Wellfield Avenue, Muswell Hill, London, N.10, (formerly Stuttgart) died in hospital on December 9, 1975, after a brief illness in her 78th year. Deeply mourned by her husband, children, grandchildren and all friends.

Wallach.—Mrs. Hanna Wallach, of 123 Dartmouth Road, London, N.W.2, died peacefully at her home on December 9, in her 81st year. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her children, grandchildren, other relatives and innumerable friends.

CLASSIFIED

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MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries by AJR

Izbicki.—Mr. John Izbicki, last known address: 91 Belmont Avenue, Cockfosters, Herts.

Reicher.—Mrs. E. Reicher, last known address: 51 Broadhurst Gardens, London, N.W.6 3QT.

Personal Enquiries

Engel.—Miss Lina Engel, believed to have arrived in this country between 1935 and 1939 from Berlin. Father's name was Fischen Engel and her sister was married to a Dr. Kaleko.

Hammer.—Mr. Jacob Hammer, born April 4, 1921 in Hamburg, emigrated to London in 1939. Would any reader who can give information, please get in touch with Mr. Walter W. Roth (Wohl-Rothstein), 10 Pine Street, North Providence, R.I. 02911, U.S.A.

Lehr.—Lore Lehr, aged about 58, of Frankfurt/Main (father was partner in furniture business of Wolf & Lehr, Hirschgraben). Wanted by former schoolmate in Koenigstein, Elizabeth Kirsten (née Weber) now 4243 Isselburg, Dierteweg 48 B, West Germany. Telephone 02874/2209.

Schoenfeldt.—Hertha Schoenfeldt, born June 22, 1903 in Berlin (father Dr. Hermann Schoenfeldt), last known address: Berlin-Neukolln, Hermann Str. Sister Paula Schoenfeldt, born 1900, married name unknown. Known to have lived in London. Wanted by Lotte Schulze-Boehnert, Berlin. Replies to: Mrs. Margot Unger (née Wolff). Telephone 01-722 2725 p.m.

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THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

1976. On entering the last quarter of the 20th Century it is worth reflecting that most of us had the good fortune of being contemporaries of some of the greatest actors, singers, composers and conductors whose world fame will live on in the memories of all. Names that spring to mind include Alexander Moissi, Emil Jannings, Bassermann, Gründgens, as well as Bruno Walter, Lotte Lehmann and Benjamins Gigli, whilst composers range from Mahler and Richard Strauss to Shostakovich and Leonard Bernstein. We are now on the threshold of a new era when the achievements in the field of music and theatre may continue through the talents of Pavarotti, Previn and Barenboim who will guarantee that world-wide cultural activities must surely remain at their present peak.

London-Milan. The long-awaited exchange between La Scala and the Royal Opera House will at last take place in March this year. Apart from the operas to be shown at Covent Garden, there will also be a single performance of Verdi's "Requiem".

Vienna. A non-Jewish "Jewish" comedian is Fritz Muliar who has made a name for himself as story teller, actor and cabaret artist. In his volume "Das Beste" he explains his philo-Semitism being derived from his Jewish step-father whom he admired for his strong traditional adherence to Jewish customs and morals, combined with modern and progressive thinking. Muliar is an actor at Vienna's "Burg" as well as "Josefstadt", and has had several long-playing records of Jewish

anecdotes published. His popularity is unquestionable.

Birthdays. Wolfgang Lukschky, Berlin's all-round actor, is 75. In recent years he could be seen as Professor Higgins, and at present he plays in Rattigan's "In praise of love".

Erna Berger, well-loved coloratura-soprano, had her 70th birthday. After her retirement she devoted herself to teaching, and her most successful pupil is Rita Streich.

Obituary. Hans Schweikart, producer and actor who only very recently directed Brecht's "Pantale" in Munich (as reported in this column, September 1975), has died, aged 80.

Theatre Men in Retirement. Two new books throw interesting light on life behind the scenes: Producer Rudolf Hartman (75) whose opera productions kept the Munich "National Theatre" alert and topical and among the top opera houses in Germany, calls his memories "Das geliebte Haus" (published by Piper, Munich) drawing a careful balance sheet of his work which culminated in his many Richard Strauss productions for which Munich is rightly famous.—W. E. Schaefer (home town Stuttgart) who as General Intendant of "Wuerttembergische Staatstheater" was their administrator, makes his book "Buehne eines Lebens" lively and colourful. It also contains episodes of the theatre's day to day life as well as vivid descriptions of the author's meetings with Wieland Wagner, Orff, Karajan and many other celebrities. S.B.

Letter to the Editor

SKIDELSKY'S MOSLEY BIOGRAPHY

Sir,—Reading Dr. Kochan's review of Robert Skidelsky's Mosley biography in your October issue, I recalled a telling passage in the memoirs of the late Lord Sieff. Describing a dinner party at his home at which Mosley was asked to talk about his plans for the "New Party", Lord Sieff writes: "... he (Mosley) made the point that a political party in his view must ultimately be based on emotion. Only feeling could win power and carry plans into effect. He said that a new movement must find somebody or something to hate. In this case it should be the Jews". (Israel Sieff, "Memoirs", London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1970, pp. 170-1).

This statement was made, according to Lord Sieff, "early in 1932". To the best of my knowledge it has never been denied by Mosley, and it goes far to demolish Mr. Skidelsky's "balanced" treatment of Mosley's antisemitism. MICHAEL HEYMANN

21 Mitudela Street,
Jerusalem 92 305.

(For the sake of an undistorted account of the episode, it must be added that, according to the Memoirs, Lord Sieff's instant reaction to this statement by Mosley was that he said "I must ask you to leave, Sir Oswald", which he did.—The Ed.)

"THANK-YOU BRITAIN" FUND LECTURE PUBLISHED

Prime Minister Wilson at Ceremony

To mark the publication of the Thank-Offering to Britain Fund Lectures, 1974, "The Office of Prime Minister" by Lord Blake, a small gathering was held at the British Academy on November 25, at which the present Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, was the main guest.

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PERSONALIA

"CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY"

Trade Journal Profile of Richard Beecham

Under this heading the November 1975 issue of the trade journal Toys International publishes a profile of Mr. Richard Beecham, joint managing director of Dunbee-Combex-Marx, the leading toy manufacturing combine. Mr. Beecham, born 1925, is the son of our friend Mr. Simon Birschheim, member of the AJR Executive. He was sent to this country by his parents immediately after the Nazis had seized power. The nucleus of the firm was founded by Mr. Beecham when he was only 18 years old, in partnership with his friend Basil Feldman, with an initial capital of £500 borrowed from Mr. Beecham's father. The article describes the tremendous development of the enterprise, the latest success of which was the Soviet deal, in which Soviet toy companies will be manufacturing toys using Dunbee-Combex-Marx tools and moulds. Mr. Beecham is also a Justice of the Peace. He describes this office as one of the best ways of relaxation, "because on the bench you cannot hurry along . . . like in business. It also saves me reading a lot of books because the stories I get in front of me, if I read them in books, I would not believe them possible".

HON. DOCTORATE FOR WERNER KRAFT

In recognition of his many literary activities, the University of Freiburg (Breisgau) bestowed the philosophical Honorary Doctorate on Werner Kraft (Jerusalem). Kraft has excelled both as an author of German language poetry and novels in his own right and as the interpreter and editor of works by other literary personalities, among them Karl Kraus and Rudolf Borchardt, Elss Lasker-Schueler and Heine.

O.B.E. FOR WILHELM UNGER

Sir Oliver Wright, British Ambassador in Bonn, presented the insignia of the O.B.E. to Wilhelm Unger who returned to Germany after the war. He was given the decoration for his services to German-British understanding. Whilst still in this country, he helped to found the Anglo-German Society and the Library of the German language. He has done much to make modern English literature known in Germany and is particularly renowned for his translations of T. S. Eliot who became a kind of cult-figure in Germany in the Fifties.

MORRIS FEINMANN HOMES TRUST GENERAL MEETING

Mr. John Simon Retires

The annual General Meeting of the Morris Feinmann Homes Trust (Manchester) was held on Sunday, November 9 in the Home and was attended by more than 100 residents, friends and guests. The accounts for the year to March 31, 1975 were passed and approved. The operation of the Home showed a deficit of £10,525 for the year (which is approximately £1,500 better than the previous year) and the Trust Account (investments, donations etc.) showed a surplus of £15,228, therefore, increasing the Trust's funds by £4,703. In view of the forces of inflation this may be called a satisfactory result. It is vital to strengthen the financial reserves in view of the inflationary pressure.

Elected National Chairman of B'nai B'rith

The Chairman, Mr John Simon, told the meeting that after seven years he was forced to resign from the Chairmanship as he had accepted the election as National President of the B'nai B'rith. Mr. E. R. Kingsley was elected as Vice-Chairman and Mr. G. V. Wolf was elected Treasurer. Mr. Simon's successor as Chairman is Dr. F. H. Kroch, C.B.E., who paid tribute to the remarkable work of Mr Simon. In his seven years of Chairmanship he reorganised the administration of the Home most successfully.

John Simon called three to four times a week at the Home, talking to the Matron and other Senior staff and was always available for any of the residents to discuss and to help them in their problems. He was highly popular with the staff, all the residents in the Home and all other Committee Members, and he gave freely and generously his time to the Home. It is difficult for anyone to appreciate fully what John Simon did for our Home.

His successor expressed, on behalf of the Management Committee, the Trustees and the members of the Executive Committee, their appreciation of John Simon's work. He congratulated him on the outstanding success he made of his responsibilities and he thanked John Simon for his devotion to the Home and to all the people who work for it and live in it.

PLAYING SAFE

Self Aid Concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall

Three well-known pieces, the Horn Quintet in E Flat and the Clarinet Quintet in A by Mozart as well as the Piano Quintet in A by Dvorak, were performed at this year's Self Aid Concert on November 17. For those of us who prefer such immortal master works, which one can hear time and again, to anything which might border the experimental, and, after all, the majority of the Self Aid regulars belong to this category, this programme was certainly a happy choice. The recitals were faultlessly and enthusiastically rendered by the Music Group of London and gratefully received by the audience. At the same time, during the interval, the foyer of Queen Elizabeth Hall—more hospitable than the draughty gangway of Wigmore Hall—again fulfilled its annual function as a venue of "Our Crowd".

FUNCTIONS AT OSMOND HOUSE

A concert given by children of the Yehudi Menuhin School entertained residents of Osmond House one Sunday afternoon in November. The concert arranged by Mrs. Gilian Newman, included works by Mozart, Haydn, Schubert and Telemann, and the graceful playing was greatly appreciated by the audience. The performers' ages ranged from 9 to 16, and they were accompanied in the "Trout Quintet" by their headmaster, Mr. Peter Renshaw. In a letter sent afterwards to the AJR the pupils stated that they considered the concert to have been the most worth-while performance they had ever given, and they hoped at some future date to return to Osmond House to spend a day with the residents.

Another event in December, also arranged by Mrs. Newman, consisted of Japanese dancing by the Israeli dancer, Mrs. Timi Kedar and poetry reading by Mrs. Trude Haas, who specialises in musical therapy for the disabled. Both artistes aptly instilled into their work a spirit to match the mood of the audience.

ZION HOUSE LECTURES

This year's annual lecture series of the Theodor Herzl Society is centred on the subject "The History of the Holy Land". Details may be seen from the advertisement on page 10. All readers of "AJR Information" and their friends will be welcome.

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