

INFORMATION

EDITED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weisbach

TO JERUSALEM AND BACK

Saul Bellow Reports

Even before Saul Bellow had received the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature, all those familiar with his novels—the last of which was Humboldt's Gift—were eager to learn about the impressions this versatile and creative mind, (the most outstanding Jewish figure in contemporary American literature, would bring back from his four months' visit to Israel to which he was invited by the Israeli Government. The Government keeps a luxurious guest house for prominent visitors outside the Old City Walls called Nachknecht Shalena'ava (dwelling of serenity) where in 1955 Sir Moses Montefiore built a small settlement. Facing a windmill opposite Mount Zion in order to transfer some Jewish inhabitants from the sliver of the Old City to a more airy place. From this starting point (traditionally especially so his mathematician wife Althea) rather than from one of the crowded tourist hotels, Bellow could study undisturbed the land and its people, always trying to penetrate below the surface of things and acts, to visualize reality against the ever-present mysterious metaphysical background and the tense political frame, and to observe the impact of all this upon collective and individual psychology. He is a keen observer who says he came from Chicago in order to learn and get to work, and will return to Chicago. He is also a superb writer when describing the aspects of landscape and scenery as well as the city, and those—and indeed the odds—of life. Often the stuff of his vivid experience is linked with reminiscences of earlier scenes, some elsewhere, or associated with episodes of figures from literature. He feels that Israel lives under permanent pressure, and reacts, thus with intellectuals as well as with common people mostly turns to the problems of survival, even though social life often seems untroubled.

Bellow's new book has to a large degree the character of a diary. He met a lot of people, of course, inevitably he mentions many things which are familiar to all those who know Israel. He praises Jerusalem's unconventional mayor Yehudi Kellak, his liberalism and Yiddish manner. Bellow calls him Israel's greatest political asset. He met doctors and psychiatrists like the barber who covered the walls of his room with pictures of Hubert Humphrey whose hair he once cut (which Bellow recalls occasions in America where he did or did not meet the former vice-president); or the philosophical surgeon who gives him advice for future treatment in Chicago. He shows more attainment than usual when hearing about the marriage laws which e.g. prevented Haim Cohen, the Justice of the Supreme Court, from marrying in Israel, because his wife was a divorcee and he was a Kabbalist. The couple had to go to America for their wedding. (Mrs. Michal Cohen, a music-

ologist of considerable repute, is the daughter of the late Moses Doolin, the first president of the Supreme Court, well known to former German Jews of the older generation.) Bellow enjoyed a Sabbath evening meal with Tavi Werselsky, professor of comparative religion and adviser in such religious matters, characteristic for many Israeli intellectuals. He also met American poets and journalists and he was introduced to Abu Zulf, editor of an Arab newspaper. Later a married couple, named Kasher vehemently rejected Abu Zulf's "moderate" reasoning. There was also a Jewish Jewish woman's anger about an Arab woman's complaint that her jewellery had been stolen by Israeli soldiers in 1967; she recounts how she was storing food and clothing because a wave of Jewish refugees was expected when the 1967 war broke out. In Moscow, German soldiers had entered houses and looted. In Berlin Russian soldiers, there were just in apologising for Israeli soldiers, who said: A lively discussion follows about the changing times. In this way the author tells of his encounters with people and of various social events, sometimes the reader gets the impression that—apart from official occasions—such meetings were rather incidental and he regrets that not all his conversation partners were on the desirable level. Yet sometimes he becomes aware of the atmosphere of the city and talk. Still, he met A. B. Yehoshua (born 1914 in Jerusalem), one of the most important Hebrew writers and original thinkers, and it is possible to discover between his own, on one of that acquaintance is that of Bellow's own reasoning.

A West Landscape

The title is very funny—derived from Bellow's own landscape of Jewish life as he saw it. It is a kind of collection of Bellow's mode of writing, with words in the style of his prose where Jewish intellectuals ponder on "extricable aspects of time and space and to the problem of philosophy about which Bellow's "diary" contains endless letters to all kinds of dear friends. And everywhere there enter into his mind unshakeable horrors and atrocities occurring in the brave new world. Not only the holocaust but horrors Bellow witnessed or heard of when he was in Israel as a war correspondent in 1957. To the alarming symptoms of a disintegrating civilization belong, of course, Hitler's and Stalin's crimes and those of the small dictators in new states, and the horrors of present times in Soviet Russia. Bellow shares Solzhenitsyn's views about the dangers inherent in the West's indifference to the intentions of Soviet imperialism; this is a theme to which he frequently returns.

The surprise in this book is Bellow's firm commitment to the Jewish and Israeli cause. Formerly he hesitated to identify himself with a purely Jewish purpose, he even declined to be stigmatised as a "Jewish" writer, but in this book he leaves no doubt about his siding with Israel against a hypocritical world (mainly the "Third World" which today dominates the United Nations forum, but including also liberal Westerners) which demands from Israel a special behaviour superior to that of all other peoples in political affairs. Why expect so much from a people living under permanent pressure and in permanent struggle for survival? And in spite of his scepticism and anxiety, after his return to cold and grey Chicago Bellow lets his thoughts wander back to Israel, the adventurous society with an alert sense of purpose.

In Bellow's book, there is a wealth of information about what people think, which cannot be exhausted in a review. He reports on his discussions, in name only a few, with Kasher and Joseph Alon in Washington, with Yehochaim Harkabi, with the eminent Jerusalem historian, professor Jacob Talmon, with well-righteous members of the Israeli Government, with the erudite Arabist professor Eilat Kadoutie in London, he refers to many publications like the book of the American Professor Malcolm Kerr and the memoirs of Israeli "hawk" professor Ne'eman, he quotes Walter Laqueur, Bernard Lewis, Raymond Aron and the "dove" Tavi Lamm of the Hebrew University who says that Israel's leadership has become "autistic", meaning that hypnotised by its own slogans it substitutes wishful thinking for reality, this — says Lamm — has kept the Israelis from realising that taking possession of occupied territories with their inhabitants, "would turn our existence as a state into a powerful pressure that would unite the Arab world and aggravate our insecure situation in a way previously unknown in our history".

Bellow's book shows him as an exemplary listener. While he discerns what his counterpart means and what his wishful dreams are, he is too polite and perhaps too modest to polemize. He knows very little of Zionist ideological history and says nothing when Mr. Kasher explains to him that the Arabs will become more moderate when they "grow rich and modernise themselves." But to his reader Bellow confides his doubt about his age-old myth of doctrinaire Israeli Labour ideology in which they cling despite ample evidence to the contrary. Bellow says nothing, he has full understanding and respect for Israel's Prime Minister whose difficult position in theory and in practice he appreciates. Per-

¹ Published in London by Victor Gollancz, 1971.
² The Jerusalem and Galilee, A Personal Account, by Abner Pines, 1951, Schocken & Weisberg, London, 1970, 89 pp.
³ On Yiddishkeit information in English can be gathered from *Yiddishkeit in Israel*, edited by Yehudi Kellak, Quadrangle Books, N.Y. 1970, and also in Yiddishkeit's weekly *Yiddishkeit*, edited by Yehudi Kellak, published by the Jewish Centre of Great Britain, 100, Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0LP.

Robert Weltsch

TO JERUSALEM AND BACK

Saul Bellow Reports

Even before Saul Bellow had received the 1976 Nobel Prize for Literature, all those familiar with his novels—the last of which was *Humboldt's Gift*¹—were eager to learn about the impressions this versatile and creative mind, the most outstanding Jewish figure in contemporary American literature, would bring back from his four months' visit to Israel to which he was invited by the Israel Government. The Government keeps a luxurious guest house for prominent visitors outside the Old City Walls called *Mishkenoth Sha'ananim* (dwelling of serenity) where in 1855 Sir Moses Montefiore built a small settlement round a windmill opposite Mount Zion in order to transfer some Jewish inhabitants from the slums of the Old City to a more airy place. From this starting point (fascinating especially to his mathematician wife Alexandra) rather than from one of the crowded tourist hotels, Bellow could study undisturbed the land and its people, always trying to penetrate below the surface of things and men, to visualise reality against the ever-present mysterious metaphysical background and the tense political drama, and to observe the impact of all this upon collective and individual psychology. He is a keen observer who says he came from Chicago in order to learn and not to teach, and will return to Chicago. He is also a superb writer when describing the mystique of landscape and scenery as well as the minds and ideas—and indeed the oddity—of men. Often the stuff of his vivid experiences is linked with reminiscences of earlier encounters elsewhere, or associated with episodes or figures from literature. He feels that Israel lives under permanent pressure, and conversation with intellectuals as well as with common people mostly turns to the problems of survival, even though social life often seems surprisingly undisturbed.

Bellow's new book² has to a large degree the character of a diary. He met a lot of people, of course, inevitably he mentions many things which are familiar to all those who know Israel. He praises Jerusalem's unconventional mayor Teddy Kollek, his liberalism and Viennese manners. Bellow calls him Israel's greatest political asset. He met zealots and eccentrics like the barber who covered the walls of his room with pictures of Hubert Humphrey whose hair he once cut (which makes Bellow recall occasions in America when he did or did not meet the former vice-president); or the philosophising masseur who gave him advice for future treatment in Chicago; he shows more astonishment than revulsion when hearing about the marriage laws which e.g. prevented Haim Cohen, the Justice of the Supreme Court, from marrying in Israel, because his bride was a divorcée and he was a Cohen. The couple had to go to America for their wedding. (Mrs. Michal Cohen, a musico-

logist of considerable charm, is the daughter of the late Moshe Smoira, the first president of the Supreme Court, well known to former German Jews of the older generation.) Bellow enjoyed a Sabbath evening meal with Tsvi Werblovsky, professor of comparative religion and admired his quasi-religious manners, characteristic for many Israeli intellectuals. He also met American poets and journalists and he was introduced to Abu Zuluf, editor of an Arab newspaper. Later a married couple named Shahar vehemently rejected Abu Zuluf's "moderate" reasoning. There was also a Dutch Jewish woman's anger about an Arab woman's complaint that her jewellery had been stolen by Israeli soldiers in 1967; she recounts how she was storing food and clothing because a wave of Jewish refugees was expected when the 1967 war broke out. In Holland, German soldiers had entered houses and looted, in Berlin Russian soldiers, there is no point in apologising for Israeli soldiers, she said. A lively discussion follows about the changing mores. In this way the author tells of his encounters with people and of various social events; sometimes the reader gets the impression that—apart from official occasions—such meetings were rather incidental and one regrets that not all his conversation partners were on the desirable level. Yet somehow he becomes aware of the atmosphere of daily life and talk. Still, he met A. B. Yehoshua (born 1936 in Jerusalem), one of the most brilliant Hebrew writers and original thinkers, and I feel it is possible to discover between the lines an echo of that acquaintance in some of Bellow's own reasoning³.

A Vast Kaleidoscope

This is a very cursory selection from Bellow's vast kaleidoscope of Jerusalem life as he saw it. It is also an indication of Bellow's mode of writing, quite similar to the style of his novels where Jewish intellectuals ponder on inextricable clashes of ideas and events and to the problems of philosophies about which Bellow's "Herzog" writes fictitious letters to all kinds of dead thinkers. And everywhere there enter into his mind unspeakable horrors and atrocities occurring in the brave new world. Not only the Holocaust but horrors Bellow witnessed or heard of when he was in Israel as a war correspondent in 1967. To the alarming symptoms of a disintegrating civilisation belong, of course, Hitler's and Stalin's crimes and those of the small dictators in new states, and the horrors of prison camps in Soviet Russia. Bellow shares Solzhenitzin's views about the dangers inherent in the West's indifference to the intentions of Soviet imperialism; this is a theme to which he frequently returns.

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¹ Published in London by Secker & Warburg, 1976.
² *To Jerusalem and Back. A Personal Account.* An Allison Press Book, Secker & Warburg, London, 1976. £3.90.
³ On Yehoshua information in English can be gathered from *Unease in Zion*, edited by Ehud Ben Ezer, Quadrangle Books, N.Y., Times, 1974; see also on Yehoshua's deeply moving novel *Facing the Forests* (describing a Jew's feeling of guilt over a destroyed Arab village) in: Amos Elon, *The Israelis—Founders and Sons*, London, 1971, p. 268 ff.

TO JERUSALEM AND BACK

Continued from page 1

haps there is room for regret that such a man only listens and does not attempt constructive criticism.

The Curse of Occupation

The real problem is that "the world" which had shown much sympathy for Israel's achievements of "making the desert bloom" and also for the social ideas expressed and at least partly realised in the kibbutzim, and last not least for Israel's military prowess and her astounding victories, was not prepared to accept the fact of the occupation of densely inhabited Arab lands and the uprooting or even expulsion of Arab peasants and townspeople, and even warlike conditions are not accepted as an excuse. Arab intransigence in rejecting the partition proposals and the various British and later UN schemes was a permanent obstacle, though some enlightened in retrospect may regret it. This situation, skillfully exploited by Arab propaganda with the support of pro-Arab Western (European, American and Russian) intellectuals, has—within a comparatively short period—gradually and systematically eroded the pro-Israeli sympathies especially of the younger generation. After the totalitarian horrors of the Fascist era—and generally ignoring the horrors of totalitarian communism (now often simply referred to as "Stalinism"—these indoctrinated youths considered it their ideological duty to stick to the "progressive" ideas of anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism, self-determination, etc., again ignoring or extenuating what has been going on in Eastern Europe and in part of the "Third World". It is in vain to argue, as Bellow also does, that in the post-war chaos millions of refugees were created in many parts of the world, that great numbers were uprooted, expelled or murdered e.g. on the India-Pakistan-Bangladesh sub-continent or in Eastern Asia and there are also the recent barbaric slaughters in Lebanon—towards which the so-called civilised world has remained apathetic. The criticism focuses on Israel, because the Jews are nearer to European consciousness, their place in the world and in history is more complicated, and suspicion against them is more deeply rooted in the Western tradition, and above all, as Bellow says, because they are weak. Moreover, the argument of *tu quoque* (he says) does not apply or is ineffective in such a case. What is puzzling is only that Israel's rulers did not foresee this development, nor did they listen to the comparatively numerous—although outside the self-righteous establishment—Jewish warnings. These were inspired not only by moral and political considerations, but also by deep concern about Israel's increasing isolation which finally left the State with only one real supporter, the most powerful country of the contemporary world, the United States. But even her reliability in this respect has been questioned by many observers. Nahum Goldmann, who knows America well has warned Israel's leaders many times during the last few years not to take America's unconditional support for granted.

We all know of the chain of anti-Israel demonstrations on the university campuses of the Western world, even—and that is most interesting—in circles which call themselves "liberal," such as England and the USA. Of special significance are developments in Western Germany, where in the first post-war years the dominant tendency was to side with the Jews. Actually, the pinnacle of the pro-Israel wave manifested itself in Germany after the

1967 victory. Nobody at that time doubted that the Arabs, led by Abdul Nasser, had planned and prepared aggressive war against Israel, and Bellow, well briefed by the Israel information services, also repeats the facts on which this view was based; yet, afterwards a new version prevailed, namely, that Israel had started a preventive war, as admitted by her own leaders and historians. And when the result of the war was the prolonged occupation of conquered territories the attitude of the foreign public rapidly changed.

An interesting documentation of this process can be found in a German book by Ernst Vogt, a lecturer at the paedagogic academy in Bremen, who is in close and friendly touch with many Israeli bodies and also a prominent photographer; he recently staged praiseworthy Israeli exhibitions in various German cities. In a terrifying manner his book⁴—including an Annex of 32 quoted documents reflects the step-by-step transformation of public opinion towards Israel, until—according to Vogt's own words—there is today not a single university left in Germany where an active pro-Arab and anti-Israel feeling does not prevail. True, the people who are conducting such propaganda are in a minority, but they are firmly organised and are convinced that they are in possession of a mystical truth and, as Vogt says, unable even to listen to a contradictory argument.

The Meaning of "Coming Home"

During the 80 years of Zionism there has frequently been an almost unconscious clash between a person's ideological acceptance of a political programme (such as joining a Zionist party branch) and his consistency in practice. Personal life has always been determined by a multitude of emotions and circumstances such as family relations, professional and business interests or simply cultural adherence. This has been a momentous problem, the more so after the establishment of the Jewish State, yet it has also provided a subject for satire and jokes. The contradiction became especially apparent in the cases of Zionist parents, theoretically pleading for emigration to Palestine, and shocked when their own children prepared to go. A typical attitude of this sort is depicted by one of the popular Anglo-Jewish writers, Chaim Bermant, who is also co-editor of and contributor to Mr. Villiers' publication "Next Year in Jerusalem", reviewed in this journal in September 1976. In his novel *Jericho Sleep Alone* (London, 1964), Bermant presents a Zionist father whose Zionist son declares he would move to Palestine, whereupon the father bursts out: "Over my dead body! Do you know that I have given hundreds of pounds to Israeli charities . . . There isn't a person in Scotland what's done more for Israel than I have, and after all that you come and tell me that you are going to settle there . . . You'll see me dead first . . ." (p.50). This is, of course, a satirical caricature, but it has a grain of truth in it. Perhaps even a trace of autobiography. In a later book, his actual autobiography, recently published⁵, Bermant, still a young man, retraces the various stages of his life to date, from the Polish and Latvian *shtetl* to the destination in Glasgow and his gradual transformation into a Scot, with all the emotional and ambiguous tensions of assimilation, culminating in the dilemma at the parting of the ways: Twice he tried to settle in Israel; and now he gives a thrilling account not only of his experiences there in many fields, pleasant and annoying, but also of the considerations and doubts tormenting his mind. This is a symp-

omatic book, reflecting the down-to-earth problems of Israeli reality. The author is a religious, though somehow sceptical, Jew, in any case, critical of empirical Israeli fanatical orthodoxy. Despite his genuine love and admiration for Israel, indeed his identification with it, he became weary of Israeli inefficiency and bureaucracy which he describes in detail, and also of the atmosphere of intolerance and absurd exactions, affecting especially a religious Jew, the pitfalls of narrow-minded children's education and other disappointments. Furthermore, after two years of continuous residence in Jerusalem he discovered that he could not bear a definite separation from Britain and as a successful English writer (on Jewish subjects, mind you), he comes to the conclusion that "a language is also a homeland of sorts". Despite his own semi-Orthodox leanings, he feels himself at home in English in a way he never would in Hebrew. This is the note on which his book ends, after he has returned to Hampstead Garden Suburb.

It is all explained with perfect frankness and not without humour, and it is probable not an isolated case. Former German-speaking Jews may be reminded of Arnold Zweig, a great writer, who has been an ardent Zionist from at least 1910 onward, and had written many dramas and novels on Jewish subjects and also essays thoroughly analysing the Jewish problem and antisemitism ("Caliban" 1927). Although a passionate defender of the Jewish and Zionist cause, he could not feel at home in Palestine where his exclusively German-language writings found no echo. In 1937 he settled on the Carmel which he loved; but being unable to communicate with the Hebrew-speaking public he felt isolated and offended. The German language was his "homeland," the life-line of his creative work. He returned to Eastern "democratic" Germany after the war. In spite of the totalitarian restrictions on free speech we know that he could not totally get rid of the problems connected with his past; in a courageous manner he also dissociated himself from the official anti-Zionist policy of his new "homeland."

Such facts are food for thought. They must not be ignored by those responsible for the quality of life in Israel, in an age when people are not impelled by persecution but looking for those ideal goods which were held out to them in the promises of original authentic Zionism.

⁴ Ernst Vogt: *Israel—Kritik von Links*. Peter Hammer Verlag Wuppertal. 1976. 230 S. DM 22.

⁵ Chaim Bermant: *Coming Home*. George Allen & Unwin, London, 1976. £5.50.

KIBBUTZ PHOTOS IN NATIONAL THEATRE

"Quality of Life", the first photographic exhibition at the new National Theatre on the South Bank, includes a photo by Judy Goldhill of members of a Kibbutz singing folk-songs in a cave in the old city of Jerusalem. Miss Goldhill is art editor of the British Journal of Photography and went to Israel in her search for photos to be exhibited. She found the group in Jerusalem for a week-end putting their own religious words to old folk-songs.

At the Photographers' Gallery in Great Newport Street, London, Ignaz Nachum Gidalewitch has exhibited a series of photographs from Germany in the Thirties. Mr. Gidalewitch, born in Munich in 1909, is senior lecturer in the Communications Department at the Hebrew University, but in the late Twenties and Thirties, he was one of the German journalist-photographers who started his career in Munich with Stefan Lorant. With Lorant he came to London to work on "Picture Post". Since then he has written 23 books.

HOME NEWS

Anglo-Judaica

SIR HENRY D'AVIGDOR-GOLDSMID

When this issue went to press, it was learned that Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid passed away at the age of 67. Our community of former refugees is particularly indebted to him for his services as chairman of the Jewish Trust Corporation, set up for the recovery of the heirless, unclaimed and former communal property in the British zone of Germany, and of the Allocations Committee of the CBF, in charge of the use of the assets thus derived for social schemes in this country, especially for the erection and maintenance of Homes. In both capacities, Sir Henry closely co-operated with the Hon. Officers of the AJR. Full tribute to his personality and work will be paid to him in our next issue.

NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

Mr. John Mason, Assistant Under Secretary of State in charge of economic affairs at the Foreign Office since 1975, has been appointed Britain's new ambassador to Tel Aviv. His predecessor Mr. Anthony Elliot drowned last August only eight months after taking up office. One of Mr. Mason's previous posts was that of First Secretary (Commercial) at the British Embassy in Damascus from 1962-1965.

SIR HAROLD IN ISRAEL

Sir Harold Wilson spoke during his recent visit to Israel at the dinner of the Israel-British Commonwealth Association to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. It was attended by Golda Meir and by Yigal Allon, Israel's Foreign Minister. Sir Harold said the Palestinian issue should be resolved by give and take on both sides. He was confident that his successor as Prime Minister, Mr. Callaghan, would honour his commitment to the support of Israel's integrity within secure and agreed borders.

Shortly before his departure for Israel, Sir Harold had been presented with B'nai B'rith's highest international award, the medal of honour for services rendered to humanity. The presentation was made at the House of Commons by B'nai B'rith's world president, Mr. David Blumberg. Because of a three-line whip Sir Harold had been unable to attend the gathering at Hillel House in the presence of the Chief Rabbi and the Israeli Ambassador which had been planned as a background for the award.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SUEZ

A B.B.C. programme in four instalments shown rather late at night in the *Tonight* set-up, brought together a number of people who had taken part in the negotiations which preceded the Suez Affair twenty years ago. Moshe Dayan who has written about it all in his memoirs was one of them, the French Foreign Minister at the time, Mr. Pineau, another. For the first time Anglo-French collusion with Israel, still an official secret in Britain, was fully exposed. It was made clear that Britain and France wanted to use the attack on Suez to topple President Nasser and that Ben-Gurion had been reluctant to be used as a "stalking horse". General Sir Hugh Stockwell who commanded the joint land forces of France and Britain which captured Port Said and Port Fuad, revealed that neither he nor the French military commanders and planners had been told about Israel's involvement. The general still thinks that it was a pity the original plans aiming at knocking out the Egyptian Air Force and Army and occupying parts of Egypt, had to be abandoned.

ANTI-ZIONISTS ON B.B.C.

There have been strong protests by several organisations to the B.B.C.'s director-general and the chairman of its Board of Governors about an "Open Door" programme presented by the Free Palestine Information Office and the Palestine Action Campaign. The B.B.C. told one complainant that the initiators of the programme had submitted statistical evidence to show that the B.B.C. had over a period of time shown a bias in favour of Israel. Among the supporters of the Palestinians who took part were Mr. Peter Hain, chairman of the Young Liberals; Mr. Andrew Faulds, M.P.; and Mr. David Watkins, M.P., chairman of the Labour Middle East Council.

The BBC at first held firm to its stated policy that there could be no "right of reply" by pro-Israel groups to the allegations made in the programme, but under the impression of the wave of protest, Mr Hardiman-Scott, chief assistant to Sir Charles Curran, director-general of the BBC, subsequently informed Mr. Hayim Pinner, executive director of B'nai B'rith and Mr. Michael Fidler, director of the Friends of Israel, that implicit in accepting the pro-Palestine programme was "the recognition of the responsibility at a later date to accept a programme presenting the Israeli point of view". There had been 229 phone calls to the BBC protesting and only 29 in favour of the programme.

DISCRIMINATION IN PRISONS?

Some prisoners, recently released from Strangeways prison in Manchester, complained that a number of prison officers belonged to the National Front and other extreme right-wing organisations and regularly discriminated against Jewish and coloured inmates. These were given dirty jobs and denied privileges. After a newspaper report according to which the Front claims substantial membership at prisons in the North of England, several M.P.s have approached the Home Secretary Mr. Merlyn Rees about such discrimination and asked him to ban the wearing of Front badges and tie-pins with prison officers' uniforms.

DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE SPEAKS FOR ISRAEL

The Duke of Devonshire, president of the Conservative Friends of Israel, has completed a tour of the United States where he was the main speaker at meetings arranged by the Israel Bonds Organisation in New York, Boston, Cleveland and Los Angeles.

Belsen Remembered

A sculptured plaque of a mother and child was presented to the Finchley Progressive Synagogue by Mr. Joshua (Dick) Levy, its president, who was present at the liberation of the Belsen camp and commissioned the sculpture as a memorial to the pathos and suffering of the Holocaust.

Prejudice Against Jewish Teacher

The Race Relations Board has ruled that Redbridge Borough Council discriminated against a Jewish applicant for the post of head teacher at Wanstead High School. The Board expects a formal assurance against further discrimination, and if it does not receive it, it may take the matter to court.

Nazi Insignia for Sale

Leaders of the Newcastle Jewish community, joined by Mrs. Theresa Russell, a former Lord Mayor of the city, have lodged a protest against a display of Nazi insignia such as badges, rings, swastikas and pennants with lightning flashes for sale at a local shop in Clayton Street.

CBF Makes £20,000 Grants

At its last Council Meeting, the Central British Fund made £20,000 grants, mainly for Jews still in and coming out of Eastern Europe. In recognition of their hard and continuing work, Mrs. Neville Blond, Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Victor Waddington were appointed Honorary Presidents of the Fund.

Sussex University Honours Jewish Major

Sussex University has awarded its Adam Weiler Prize to Anthony Glazer for his essay "A Failure of Intelligence? The Beginning of the Yom Kippur War". The prize is named after Major Adam Weiler who studied at the university until the outbreak of the Six-Day War when he returned to Israel to serve in the Army and after completing his studies to become a brilliant regular officer in the Israeli Armoured Corps. He was quickly promoted major, but killed in 1970 during the war of attrition.

A Critic of Israeli Society

Mr. Roger Radford, press officer of the British Aliya Movement, has resigned stating that it was not right for him to send others to Israel when he had not fixed a date for himself. A few weeks earlier, Mr. Radford had been involved in a row after he had written an article in the "Jerusalem Post" criticising present-day Israeli society for its price distortion, wide-spread corruption and "socialism of the type that lets the public's teeth go rotten because they cannot afford fillings". He also said that British Jews without pots of money or a cast-iron ideology should not go to Israel. Mr. Radford is married to an Israeli and has lived in the country for five years.

Acclaim for Israeli Football Referee

Forty-two-year-old Abraham Klein was the referee who with his two Israeli linesmen was acclaimed from all quarters for his firm handling of the crucial World Cup tie in which Italy beat England 2-0 in Rome. Eighty thousand spectators watched the game, but three Arab countries cancelled their direct T.V. transmission when they heard who the referee was. It is expected that Klein will be asked to act as referee for the 1978 finals in Argentina.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Pro-Israel Official resigns

A senior American intelligence official, Mr. Joseph Churba, was stripped of his security clearance and asked to resign, because he had severely criticised General Brown, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for describing Israel as a burden to the United States. In an interview in the "New York Times" Mr. Churba said these dangerously irresponsible remarks were representative of a growing anti-Israel tilt in the Pentagon, and claimed that General Brown had "lent his high office to the Soviet-Arab stratagem to isolate the U.S. from Israel". Until his enforced resignation Mr. Churba was senior intelligence officer for the Middle East.

New moves against fascist archbishop

The American National Council of Churches has asked for the resignation from its governing board of the Romanian Orthodox Archbishop Trifa who denies having participated in fascist atrocities, resulting in the death of thousands of Jews and Christians, in the Second World War, but admits wearing Iron Guard stormtrooper uniform and making anti-semitic speeches. When he was naturalised in 1957, he had denied even this, and consequently the U.S. Government have now instituted proceedings to annul his naturalisation.

Israel's links with South Africa condemned

A special resolution of the United Nations which condemns the "racist régime of South Africa" singled out Israel for its "continuing and increasing collaboration" with that régime. Mr. Chaim Herzog, Israel's representative, said in the debate that Russian trade with South Africa had increased by almost a third recently and that a number of Arab and African States also did business with South Africa.

Abraham's Contract before U.N.

Israel's United Nations representative, Mr. Chaim Herzog, has circulated a 4,000-year-old contract between the Patriarch Abraham and the Hittite Ephron for the purchase of the Cave of Machpelah, the site of the tombs of the Patriarchs. Mr. Herzog explained that Israel had not asked for the contract to be registered in accordance with the United Nations Charter, because it was not an international agreement and "concluded somewhat prior to the coming in force of the Charter." The contract was produced in answer to a recent statement by the Islamic Conference in Libya, circulated by Dr. Waldheim, U.N. Secretary-General on conditions in the occupied territories which denied all Jewish association with the city of Hebron.

JEWISH MINISTER IN CANADA

Col. Barnett Danson, since 1968 a member of the Canadian Parliament who fought in Normandy and was seriously wounded in 1944, has been made Minister of Defence in the Canadian Government.

ISRAELI WATER EXPERTS IN S. AMERICA

The Israeli Tahal Company which is partly owned by the Israeli Government, has concluded a number of agreements with Central and South American countries where it will do extensive work to provide water. The countries include Brazil, Mexico and Nicaragua. The company also does extensive work in Turkey and in South Korea where it is engaged on a large-scale project, financed by the World Bank, to provide large new rice fields.

AMIN ACCUSED OF MURDER WHITEWASH

The Ugandans announced that their commission of inquiry into the fate of Mrs. Dora Bloch at the time of the Entebbe raid had established that Mrs. Bloch had been released together with more than 100 other hostages. The British government has expressed its anger at the Ugandan version and is convinced that Mrs. Bloch who had dual British-Israeli nationality, was dragged from a Kampala hospital by two members of Amin's secret police and probably suffocated in the struggle, and that her body had been burned. In a letter to Mr. Greville Janner, M.P., Mr. Ted Rowlands, Foreign Office Minister of State, said that this was the "sort of whitewash" that had been expected, and that a Ugandan photographer, said to have taken pictures of Mrs. Bloch's burned body, appeared to have met with a violent death. Britain has not been officially told of the commission findings, because it has broken off relations with Uganda.

ISRAELI GIFT TO SYDNEY OPERA

The Israeli Government presented the Sydney Opera House with the replica of an ancient mosaic floor in a fifth-century Gaza synagogue which shows King David playing a harp. It is the first gift the opera has received from any government.

DUTCH WAR CRIMINAL

Concentration camp survivors, brought over from Israel, testified in a Dutch court against 58-year old factory worker Lambertus Johannes Loven and said he had been the worst of all the guards in the Bobruisk camp near Kiev run by the SS in Russia. He had kept his involvement in the camp a secret for thirty years from his present third wife and their five children, but was named at a war crimes trial in Hamburg last year. Psychiatrists said that Loven was a classic sadist who was dead scared of the dentist, but even in peacetime bullied young workers in the factory where he was a foreman. The prosecution has asked for a life sentence, because execution (still legal in Holland for war-crimes) would be too merciful.

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE HONOURED

More than 500 guests attended a ceremony at the Israeli Embassy in Paris when Mr. Harman, president of the Hebrew University conferred an honorary Ph.D. degree on Jean-Paul Sartre, the world-famous writer and philosopher of existentialism. The degree was awarded in recognition of Sartre's stand against antisemitism with which he has dealt in one of his major books, his friendship with Israel and his defence of human freedom.

JEWISH WORLD CONGRESS IN SPAIN

When the World Jewish Congress met in Madrid, this was the first international Jewish gathering ever to be held in Spain. King Juan Carlos gave an audience to the leaders of the Congress. When Itzhak Navon, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, recently attended a conference in Spain, the King said that Spain had no animosity towards the Jews, but could not afford to recognise Israel because of her economic dependence on Arab countries. Nahum Goldmann said the WJC meeting was a very important historical event because it marked the reconciliation between Spain and the Jews. "To punish Spain for the expulsion of the Jews in 1492, the rabbis have for centuries forbidden Jews to visit the country".

SPECIAL AUSTRIAN STAMP

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Vienna City Temple, the Austrian Post Office has issued a special stamp, depicting the magnificent interior of the synagogue.

DERISORY EAST GERMAN "COMPENSATION" OFFER REJECTED

The "Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany", which represents organisations of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, was offered by the (East) German Democratic Republic a global "compensation" payment of one million dollars, with the proviso that the money should be used only for Jewish Nazi victims of U.S.A. citizenship. The offer was made on behalf of the GDR by the Committee of Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters of the GDR. There is reason to assume that it was motivated by the hope that it might favourably influence the pending trade negotiations between the United States and the GDR.

The absurdity of the proposed amount, which is the equivalent of about two million DM, becomes evident if one compares it with the payments made by the German Federal Republic. By virtue of the Luxemburg Agreement of 1952, these comprised 450 million DM to the Claims Conference and 3,000 million DM to the State of Israel. Adding to these global payments various kinds of individual compensation payments, the total West German payments have so far amounted to about 53,000 million DM, and the payments still to be made in the course of the future years (mainly current annuities and pensions) are estimated at a further 30,000 million DM.

When, in 1952, the global payment to the Claims Conference was assessed at 450 million DM, the negotiating parties were guided by the fact that the German Federal Republic comprised about two-thirds of the former Reich, and that the payment of the further third (i.e. 225 million DM) was the obligation of the GDR.

Rejecting the GDR's offer of two million dollars, Dr Nahum Goldmann, the President of the Claims Conference, issued the following press statement:

"Dr Nahum Goldmann has instructed Mr. Benjamin Ferencz, the representative of the Claims Conference negotiating with the Committee of Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters of the German Democratic Republic, to refuse to accept the amount of one million dollars offered by the Committee on humanitarian grounds, as a one-time financial support to needy U.S.A. citizens of Jewish faith who were persecuted by the Nazi régime.

"In view of the great wrong done to tens of thousands of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in East Germany, the offer of one million dollars is not to be taken seriously, especially in view of the fact that the West German Federal Republic has spent until now about 25 billion dollars in compensation to Nazi victims. Another reason for the rejection by the Claims Conference of this amount is the condition attached to it, that it be used only for Jewish Nazi victims from the German Democratic Republic now living in the U.S.A. The Claims Conference has never accepted any special compensation for citizens of any one country but negotiates for the totality of the Nazi victims, most of whom are today in Israel. The Claims Conference will not be a party to any attempt of the German Democratic Republic to discharge its responsibility by a token amount, and will continue to claim real compensation from the GDR".

AUSTRIAN SOCIAL INSURANCE

The Austrian Social Insurance Pensions will be increased by 7 per cent as from January 1, 1977, onwards.

THE ISRAELI SCENE

PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM IN ISRAEL

When the World Union for Progressive Judaism held its golden jubilee conference in Jerusalem, three Knesset members introduced motions to extend official greetings to it, but they were met with a barrage of heckling from the National Religious Party and Aguda benches. Representatives of the 800 delegates presented a proclamation of solidarity to President Katzir and urged Israel to accord their movement full recognition. The conference rejected a motion for the abolition of Israel's Chief Rabbinate which had been submitted by Rabbi Joseph Glazer, the executive vice-president who described it as "oppressive and totalitarian" and "an archaic vestige of the Ottoman Empire and the British Mandate". In the Knesset Mrs. Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens' Rights Movement, said that if the Progressives were accorded a more positive role, tens of thousands of their diaspora members would emigrate to Israel.

ARABS TOLD OF MANOEUVRES

When the Israeli Armed Forces recently broadcast passwords on radio and television for reservists to report for large-scale exercises, they took the precaution of advising the neighbouring Arab governments in advance in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding.

JAILED BRITON ASKS FOR CLEMENCY

A British aircraft engineer, David A. Kelly, who serves a six-year sentence for taking out secret plans of the Israeli Kfir combat aircraft, has made his second appeal for clemency. He was one of 200 British engineers working on the Kfir project and maintains he only took the plans home to be able to do some more work on them. The plans were found in a suitcase in his car during a security check before boarding a ship for Cyprus in Haifa. The case was kept secret, and the trial in July took place in camera, because all work on the plane ranks as top security.

MUSEUM OF RECONCILIATION

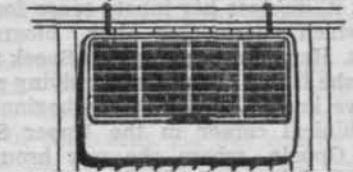
The Holocaust Research Institute in Jerusalem has asked for helpers in designing a museum of the three monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — which is to serve the fostering of understanding and reconciliation between nations.

ISRAEL HELPS EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Israel has airlifted one and a half tons of relief supplies to Turkey to help victims of the recent earthquake. They contained blankets, powdered milk, tinned food and other commodities and were delivered by the Magen David Adom to the Turkish Red Crescent.

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RABIN AT SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

At the Geneva conference of the Socialist International, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Itzhak Rabin, was unanimously elected vice-president. Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, was chosen as president. Mr. Rabin received a standing ovation when he called for the Geneva conference on the Middle East to be reconvened with only its co-chairmen the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and the sovereign Middle East Governments attending. He said the conference should discuss co-existence, trade, security, technology and "human bridges", and it could become the Helsinki of the Arab-Israeli dispute. With all its imperfections the Helsinki conference on European co-operation represented an historic effort to break down walls of enmity between nations. The new conference should aim at "the creation of a new regional structure of stability, security and peace founded on Middle East realities".

Mr. Rabin also had a meeting of nearly two hours with the Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Bruno Kreisky who said afterwards the atmosphere between Israel and Austria had now been cleared. He was impressed by Mr. Rabin's desire to negotiate with Arab leaders. Dr. Kreisky will visit Israel in February.

SPLINTER PARTIES

Professor Yigael Yadin, 59, the famous archaeologist and chief of staff in the Israel War of Independence, has formed a new political group, the Democratic Party. At the same time Mr. Ariel Sharon, 48, who led the Israeli Forces which crossed into Egypt during the Yom Kippur War and later was a co-founder and member in the Knesset of the right-wing Likud Party, has founded another party, Shlom Zion.

FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION IN ISRAEL BUDGET

In order to reduce inflationary price rises from 32 to 25 per cent, the Israeli Finance Minister, Mr. Rabinowitz has cut the 1977 budget by £357 million to £8,750 million. The Israeli Pound will be devalued by about 20 per cent in 1977. Telephone, water, electricity, education and health charges will increase by 25 per cent.

WATER FOUND IN DESERT

Huge subterranean water supplies have been found in the central Negev desert. Experts of the national water company said they expected to obtain hundreds of millions of cubic feet of water from what might be a gigantic underground lake stretching all the way across the Negev, some 2,500 feet deep.

CLUB 1943

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- 3 Januar. Bank Holiday. Keine Veranstaltung.
- 10 Januar. Mally Burger: Bali, The Island of Happiness, and other Indonesian Islands.
- 17 Januar. Margarete Kirschner: Robert Ardrey: "The Territorial Imperative". A Study of Human and Animal Behaviour.
- 24 Januar. Peter Seglow: Politische und landschaftliche Aspekte Amerikas nach 200 Jahren (mit Lichtbildern).
- 31 Januar. Dr. Erich Winter: Ueber mögliche Ziele und gegebene Grenzen der individuellen Psychotherapie.
- 7 Februar. The Kol Rinah Choir (Pioneer Women), geleitet von Johanna Metzger. Jüdische und andere Lieder. Begleitet von Paul Lichtenstern.

MEETINGS WITH SADAT?

At a B'nai B'rith conference in Jerusalem, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Rabin, revealed that there had been three attempts to arrange a meeting between Diaspora Jewish leaders and President Sadat of Egypt. He had agreed on three occasions when Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress indicated that such a meeting might be arranged. However, nothing came of it because Sadat had insisted that he should specify which Jewish leaders should participate and that any meeting should be held in the utmost secrecy. Dr. Goldmann said Mr. Rabin should not have disclosed information given to him in confidence, but the Israeli Premier said he had been accused by the Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Bruno Kreisky of being responsible for the failure of the attempts. The Israeli government, Kreisky said, had adopted a negative attitude when he had arranged such a meeting.

ISRAEL ADMITTED TO UNESCO

Despite the opposition of Communist member countries, Israel was admitted to the European group of Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). At the Unesco general conference in Nairobi, East Germany protested on behalf of the East European countries, saying that Israel was not a European country and had not complied with Unesco resolutions. At the last general conference in Paris in 1974, Israel's application for admission had been refused and followed by two anti-Israel resolutions. As a result, Israel and the United States refused to pay their contributions to Unesco, and other countries reduced theirs, whilst many governments, organisations and groups of intellectuals made their disapproval known.

JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT WITH BRITAIN

During a London visit by the Israeli Housing Minister, Mr. Abraham Ofer who had discussions with Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, it was agreed that Britain and Israel are to cooperate in a research programme on construction technology. West Germany where Mr. Ofer stayed prior to his call at London, will contribute some £150,000 to a number of projects to be carried out jointly by the British Building Research Institute and the Haifa Technion.

MEXICAN GIFTS

A 60-member Mexican delegation visited Israel and serenaded President Katzir after delivering gifts from the President of Mexico, Mr. Echeverria to Mr. Yigal Allon, the Foreign Minister, to mark the end of the strained relations between the two countries, caused by Mexico's support of the infamous U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racialism. Led by Mr. Bracamontes, the Mexican Public Works Minister, they sang a Hebrew song saying "We have brought you peace".

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO EVA REICHMANN

On January 16, Dr. Eva G. Reichmann will celebrate her 80th birthday. Some months ago, she informed us that she would be abroad on that day and asked us to do two things: to take no notice of the event in AJR Information and to tell her friends that they should do likewise. She wanted us to say that on her 75th birthday her friends had been so generous in helping to publish a collection of her writings "Groesse und Verhaengnis juedischer Existenz" (Heidelberg, Lambert Schneider Verlag 1974), "that they have amply anticipated any obligations they might consider customary on this new jubilee". Whilst it is obviously left to her friends whether they want to comply with her request, we on our part felt that we could not disregard this event in our columns. We are therefore printing below appreciations of her life and work by two old friends. Eva Reichmann's life and that of her husband, the late Hans Reichmann, for many years chairman of the AJR, have reflected and, at the same time, been actively involved in the history of our particular group of former German Jews and have thus become part of contemporary Jewish history. We consider ourselves privileged in being able from time to time to publish some of her reflections which give ample proof of her undiminished mastery of thought and expression, and we join her many friends in wishing her many more years of fulfilment both on the human and the spiritual level. —The Ed.

Ernest Hamburger (New York)

SALUTE TO EVA REICHMANN

On her eightieth birthday, I salute Eva Reichmann, grateful for her friendship and full of admiration for her personality and her many-sided work. My affectionate wishes go not only to a dear friend, but also to a scholar of impressive gifts, untiring in the search for truth; a compelling and inspiring writer; and, last not least, to a warm-hearted woman.

Unbelievable as it may seem to anyone who knows her, the day has come indeed when Eva is to receive the wishes she has often extended to others so graciously and in her inimitable style. She prepared the Festschrift for Leo Baeck at his 80th birthday and prefaced it by a dedication moving and thoughtful at the same time. She paid a touching tribute to Robert Weltsch, "out of the abundance of the heart", when he had reached the age attained by her now, speaking in the name of all who know and love him. Her expression of veneration for both Baeck, the rabbi in whom the remnants of German Jewry, dissipated over the world, see their symbolic head, and Weltsch, supreme mentor, interpreter and guardian of what was once German Jewry, as Eva put it, disclose her innate sense for greatness which permeates her biographical sketches. Her many writings on Baeck remind us that she is one of the few surviving persons who have known him since the beginnings of his rabbinical career in the Upper Silesian capital, Oppeln, where she was brought up and received her first schooling. She calls him "the teacher of my youth".

Associating myself with her other friends and admirers on this memorable day, may I say that when I first met her a number of years ago, I was immediately captivated by her natural charm and her unusually intelligent approach to people and things. We sealed our friendship, a rare and rich gift at such an advanced stage of life. We exchanged letters,

we seldom met subsequently; last year I considered it an especially good fortune to spend two days with her in Switzerland. During many hours we brought our ideas into the open, we exchanged recollections and views of the future; Eva and Herbert Weichmann, her friend since the early years of their lives, and Elsbeth Weichmann, and my wife and myself. We wondered whether we were not of a generation which, for a long time, would be the last to conduct a conversation of this kind: without radio and television, far from the world of the computer, in an atmosphere in which men and women of a common background and common aspirations feel attracted to each other—remnants of a world long past.

When Eva had completed her studies, she was offered the position of assistant by no less a scholar than Professor Emil Lederer of the University of Heidelberg, where she had received her doctorate. Had Eva accepted Lederer's offer, she would have risen to remarkable heights of scholarship during the Weimar years. She had all the prerequisites for a scholarly career: a capacity for abstract thought, a penetrating mind, a rejection of any unclear idea, and a predilection for precise and beautifully presented formulations.

Eva Reichmann declined. Was it a mistake? Had she accepted she would not have found her matrimonial bliss with Hans Reichmann which, of course, she could not foresee at that time. But her decision was wise and right under another aspect too. In joining the "Central-Verein" as *Dezernent* and working as the editor of the highly esteemed Jewish magazine *Der Morgen*, she entered the German-Jewish political and cultural field. She thereby added another important element to the foundations on which she based the scholarly work of her post-German period as a director of research in the Wiener Library and in her writings. By not assuming a chair immediately after leaving the classroom, Eva Reichmann escaped the risk to which so many scholars with a German educational background succumbed. She familiarised herself with a great many problems and pursuits of Jewish and general political life; she acquired an immense knowledge of people and procedures; she became a master in speaking and writing about intricate matters. Whenever finesse, knowledge, a sense of diplomacy and firmness were required, she was called upon as an especially skilful expert.

Irresistible was the force that drove Eva into the political life from childhood on. At a tender age, on a day of an important election to the Reichstag, she agreed to go to bed at the usual hour only after having extracted from her parents the promise to wake her up and inform her of the results as soon as they were known. Theodor Mommsen, Germany's greatest historian, once observed that with the best which was in him he felt to be an "animal politicum", a definition drawn from Aristotle. The same is true of Eva. An enthusiastic Jew, she gained during these years a political conception from which she never deviated.

Eva Reichmann's strict adherence to justice is combined with an unshakable belief in the goodness of man. When Nazism got hold of the German people, this belief was put to a cruel test. She faced it without wavering. If it is true that times change and we change with them, Eva Reichmann shows the validity of this word in her masterful analysis of the transformation of the German-Jewish consciousness in her contribution to the anthology *Deutsche Juden in Krieg und Revolution*; there is a straight and unbroken line of basic

thought from Eva's work in the days of Weimar to her later literary accomplishments. She confessed that she wrote under the impact of strong emotions. However, she did not allow them to destroy her deepest conviction. Sometimes Eva Reichmann may have neared the borderline of illusions, but she did not cross it. She preserved the humane element in herself and in her work in an era of inhumanity. She showed the same courage in frankly admitting errors of her early days of activity. We all have committed errors, which is only too natural, especially in our time. Not all of us have confessed them in later years. Eva, however, went even further. In selecting parts of her book *Hostages of Civilization* and other writings for her volume *Groesse und Verhaengnis deutsch-juedischer Existenz* she did not allow herself to omit passages of which she then disapproved — a beautiful proof of intellectual honesty.

Eva Reichmann did not stop working when she approached the eighties. Her article on Max Horkheimer in Year Book XIX of the Leo Baeck Institute reveals anew the depth and the versatility of her knowledge and her interests, covering philosophical and psychological, historical and sociological subjects. Her youthful mind and her sound reasoning manifest themselves in this latest, certainly not the least testimony of the achievements attained by a lasting intellectual curiosity and the experience of a rich and fulfilled life. She is a great woman.

Herbert Weichmann (Hamburg)

80 JAHRE FREUNDSCHAFT

Meine Freundschaft mit Eva geht weit zurück in die Jugendzeit. Schon unsere Väter waren miteinander befreundet und bei der herben Natur meines Vaters konnte diese Freundschaft in meinen Augen nicht nur oberflächlich gewesen sein. Wenn mich mein Gedächtnis nicht täuscht, verhalf er Eva sogar als Geburtshelfer zum Lichte der Welt. Schon diese Vorgeschichte prädestinierte mich sozusagen mit besonderer Erwartung bereits der ersten Begegnung entgegenzusehen.

Diese Erwartung wurde nicht enttäuscht als Eva nach meiner Heimatstadt Liegnitz kam, um dort die sog. Höhere Töchterchule zu besuchen, an der auch meine Schwester ihrer Schulpflicht genügte. In unserem Hause sozusagen als Erbgut freundlich aufgenommen, entwickelte sich zwischen ihr und mir ein Verhältnis, das für mich wenigstens damals von besonderer Art war. Damals war ja noch nicht die Zeit der Frauenemanzipation gekommen und weibliche Wesen, deren Interessen über Flirt, Koketterie, häusliche Tugenden oder Schulerlebnisse hinausreichten, waren selten, von Koedukation, welche die Geschlechter unbefangener zusammenführte, gar nicht erst zu reden. Gerade das aber war es an Eva, das mich beeindruckte, die wache geistige Lebendigkeit in ihr, die nicht selbstgenügsam nur an sich selbst dachte, sondern schon damals darauf aus war, die Welt zu entdecken, in sich selbst und rund herum um sich Umschau zu halten, gesellschaftliche Vorgänge zu begreifen und kritisch nach einem eigenen Platz im Leben zu suchen.

So fanden wir uns auch in die Jugendbewegung gedrängt, die in den Schuljahren unsere Art von Emanzipationsbewegung war. Mein früher begonnenes Studium und der erste Weltkrieg trennten uns, aber wir fanden uns in der sozialistischen Studentengruppe in Heidelberg im Jahre 1919 wieder, ein aufgeregter Haufen junger Welterlöser und begierig Erkenntnisse zu erhalten, die wir im Bereiche der Philosophie, National-

Continued on page 7

Birthday Tributes

Continued from page 6

ökonomie, der Literatur und der Geisteswissenschaften überhaupt ex cathedra zu erlangen hofften. Es gab ständig Gespräche miteinander, lange Diskussionen mit Freunden über Sinn und Richtung des Geschehens, und ich bin heute nicht mehr sicher, ob sie mehr von der ratio oder der Utopie bei der Weltbetrachtung beeinflusst waren.

Die Zeitumstände haben uns dann wieder getrennt und auch Interessen und berufliche Tätigkeiten verliefen in getrennten Bereichen. Ich landete in politischer Tätigkeit und Eva wandte sich besonders jüdischen Fragen zu. Schliesslich riss uns die Emigration aus allen möglichen Kontakten. So verstrichen Jahre ohne Zusammenhang. Das ist nicht verwunderlich: "die Zeiten waren eben so".

Das Verwunderliche ist aber, dass nach meiner Rückkehr aus den Vereinigten Staaten nach der Bundesrepublik wir bald wieder zusammenfanden und zwar in eben der alten Kameradschaft des Geistes, an der die lokale Trennung und die Ereignisse nichts verfremdet hatten. Es gab viele Probleme, an denen eine solche Verfremdung möglich gewesen wären. So bei der Frage der Rückkehr eines Juden nach Deutschland überhaupt und in die deutsche Politik im Besonderen. So die Frage des Verhaltens zum Judentum und zu Israel nach der Staatsgründung und schliesslich ganz allgemein bei der Frage des einem jeden von uns angemessenen Platzes in einer neuen Zeitepoche mit veränderten und stetig wechselnden Vorzeichen. Aber wenn immer wir wieder zusammentrafen, wann immer ich las, was Eva schrieb und vortrug, stellte sich auch immer unmittelbar verbindend eine Gemeinsamkeit des Urteils und unserer Haltung zu den Dingen ein.

Eva's kritischer, aber ebenso auch toleranter Geist war mir als Richtpunkt für meine eigene Orientierung wichtig. Auch die leidvollen Ereignisse hatten nichts von ihren Bemühen um Objektivität und nichts an der Ratio geändert, mit der sie abwägend und ohne Versuchung sich in Emotionen zu verlieren, den Ereignissen gegenübertrat. Diszipliniert sich selbst und anderen gegenüber fand sie sich auch nach dem so schwerwiegenden Verlust ihres Mannes und ihrer Schwester im Leben zurecht, immer wieder sich selbst zu Tätigkeiten motivierend, deren Fruchtbarkeit wir so dankbar noch heute erleben.

Vor allem aber war mir auch ihre warme Herzlichkeit, die keine Sprüche machte, sondern einfach da war, eine Bereicherung. So habe ich zum 80. Geburtstag vor allem dafür zu danken, dass Eva so war und ist, wie sie eben war und ist und nicht nur für mich, sondern für so viele, denen ihr Wirken Orientierungspunkte setzte. "A youthful mind" so überschrieb Robert Weltsch seinen Beitrag zu Eva's 75. Geburtstag, so ist es noch heute und so möge es noch lange bleiben.

RICHARD BROH 80

On January 1, our friend and member, Mr Richard Broh, will join the ranks of the octogenarians. In Berlin, his city of birth, he worked as a journalist and contributed to a number of trade journals as well as to the Berliner Boersenzeitung. He came to this country in 1937. After the war, he was appointed representative of the Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB) for Great Britain. He held this position from 1950-1968. For the past years, Richard Broh has been living in retirement after an eventful and not always easy life. We wish him many more years of undiminished health and active interest in the numerous causes which are near to his heart.

H. W. Freyhan

CONFLICTS IN MEYERBEER'S LIFE

Meyerbeer and Mendelssohn, worlds apart as composers, had two things in common: both were of German-Jewish origin, and both came from wealthy families. Their financial circumstances made them largely independent of their earnings as musicians—a rare state of affairs, which, in combination with their racial background, was bound to evoke much envy and hostility within the profession. Such antagonism was further reinforced by the tremendous popularity which both enjoyed during their lives among a wider public and among Royalty. In retrospect, some of the claims made for them were no doubt exaggerated, and later developments produced a sharp reaction which was equally exaggerated. Mendelssohn, undisputedly the greater of the two, has more or less regained whatever ground he may temporarily have lost. Meyerbeer is still widely regarded as little more than a V.I.P. of nineteenth-century musical history. A true appreciation of Meyerbeer at his best depends foremost on adequate presentation, such as is found in a 1970 recording of his *Huguenots* with an (indispensable!) star cast including Joan Sutherland (Decca SET 460-3). Apart from the opera's own strength, the evidence of its impact on Verdi, Wagner and even Mussorgsky, is quite staggering.

Our knowledge of Meyerbeer is again vastly enlarged by the third volume of his correspondence and diaries. (*Giacomo Meyerbeer, Briefwechsel und Tagebücher. — Mit Unterstützung der Akademie der Künste Berlin in Verbindung mit dem Staatl. Institut fuer Musikforschung Berlin hrsg. u. kommentiert von Heinz Becker und Gudrun Becker. — de Gruyter, Berlin, 1975. DM 290.*) The first two volumes were reviewed in *AJR Information* in September, 1962 and October, 1972.

The new volume covers the years 1837-1845. During this period, *Les Huguenots*, first produced in Paris in 1836, conquered the opera houses of Europe. Meanwhile the composer completed his next grand opera, *Le Prophète* whose première, also in Paris, was, however, delayed until 1849. After 1841, Meyerbeer spent some years in his native Berlin where Friedrich Wilhelm IV had appointed him *Generalmusikdirektor* of the Opera. He returned once more to his beginnings by writing a German opera, *Das Feldlager in Schlesien*, a glorification of Friedrich II. Its première (1844) marked the opening of the new opera house *Unter den Linden* (the old building had been destroyed by fire). Some of the performances starred Jenny Lind, the famous Swedish soprano.

Although Meyerbeer had never renounced his religion, he was treated with the greatest kindness by Prussia's Royal House. His king thought highly of him ("der sanfteste, versoehlichste mildeste Mann von der Welt") and refused several times to allow him to resign because of perpetual conflicts with the *Generalintendant*. Even more cordial were Meyerbeer's relations with Prince Wilhelm

and Princess Augusta (the later Emperor and Empress). Augusta dedicated some of her little compositions to him. All this happened during the reactionary *Vormaerz* era!

Nevertheless, Meyerbeer remained anxious not to sever his connections with Paris, the scene of his greatest triumphs which he considered generally more responsive to his music than his native country. It was no easy going for him in France either, but he was deeply aware of the wide-spread German antagonism against his works, and all the favours which he received from the Hohenzollerns and other German princes could not wipe out his misgivings.

Meyerbeer was hypersensitive to adverse criticism. This was a basic personality trend, and the documents provide more than ample confirmation of it and shed some light on its motivation.

This eminently successful composer, who seemed to have Europe at his feet, suffered from a deep-rooted sense of insecurity. His diaries, though mainly a list of appointments, include some telling passages of self-criticism, applying to personal shortcomings as well as to his compositions. In addition, he was always conscious of the special problems that arose from his Jewish origin. Again and again, he ascribes any hostile reactions to "richness" (Jew-hatred). Quite often, the suspicion was not unfounded; on the other hand, his most prominent German opponent, Robert Schumann, was one of Mendelssohn's enthusiastic admirers.

In fact Mendelssohn himself made no secret of his dislike of Meyerbeer's art although Meyerbeer's brother Heinrich was married to one of Felix's cousins. Meyerbeer saw in Mendelssohn one of his chief enemies, and the letters of his brother Wilhelm Beer abound in invectives against him and Schumann. Meyerbeer also considered Halévy the French-Jewish composer, as a powerful rival whose successes he regarded with some jealousy.

More than once we find Meyerbeer confessing that news of adverse Press notices impeded his ability to work. Given his marked self-criticism, composing could become an enervating task for him. Under pressure, he could, by a tremendous effort, proceed quite rapidly, but often he was inclined to postpone things—just as he was notoriously slack in answering letters—and where the task was not congenial, he left it *ad infinitum*. After the death of Weber (1826), a friend from his student days, he had undertaken to complete Weber's unfinished opera *Die drei Pintos* for the benefit of the composer's family. He kept the fragments for some 20 years and eventually bought his way out by financial compensation. It was left to Gustav Mahler to complete the opera.

Painstaking over his own major works, Meyerbeer demanded constant alterations from his librettists and made numerous changes in the scores. He was equally fastidious over the production: to obtain the right casting he was quite willing to delay the première for a long time, as in the case of *Le Prophète*.

One of the less agreeable results of his anxiety about his works was his method of securing favourable publicity. His notorious manipulation of the Press did not exclude bribery—financial, or in more subtle ways.

Continued on page 8, column 1

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CONFLICTS IN MEYERBEER'S LIFE

Continued from page 7

Such procedures remained no secret and provided his enemies with a great deal of ammunition. Under these circumstances, Meyerbeer's image became rather tainted, and it was alleged that he used his influence against his opponents and—those whom he considered possible rivals. This is, of course, difficult to establish, although it may be assumed that some of his supporters, even without his prompting, may have acted in this manner.

Meyerbeer and Wagner

The whole question becomes particularly virulent in the case of Richard Wagner. The present volume covers the early years of the two composers' relationship, which began in 1837. Wagner, then at a very early stage of his career, had published a well-balanced review of *Les Huguenots*. Some correspondence with Meyerbeer seems to have ensued, and in 1840, Wagner arrived in France and sought Meyerbeer's protection. Subsequently, in Paris, both composers saw a great deal of each other. Wagner's letters to Meyerbeer display a submissiveness and pretended enthusiasm which can only be described as nauseating. Meyerbeer was embarrassed when Wagner proposed to publish an article with the following lines (referring to Meyerbeer's Italian period): "Aber Meyerbeer war so deutsch, dass er bald in die Fusstapfen seiner alten deutschen Vorfahren geriet; diese zogen mit der vollen Kraft des Nordens ueber die Alpen und eroberten sich das schoene Italien . . ." Meyerbeer prevented the publication.

Significantly, Wagner continued to flatter Meyerbeer at a time when he had already passed adverse comments to others. But he still took the line that, in spite of his dislike of Meyerbeer's operas, he was personally indebted to him, and there is plenty of evidence (confirmed by the great Wagner scholar, Ernest Newman) that this was indeed the case. In fact, Meyerbeer seems to have taken to the young firebrand and writes with some warmth about him. He continued to promote Wagner's interests in Berlin where he secured the production of *Der Fliegende Hollaender*. But the fact that he could not meet all of Wagner's requests may have raised the ambitious composer's suspicions. No proof exists for the allegation that Meyerbeer began to see in Wagner a dangerous rival (which he was soon to become in more than one sense!). In any case, Wagner's antisemitic article of 1850 must have come as a most unpleasant surprise to Meyerbeer, its chief victim, and when the two men met by chance in London, in 1855, they were both speechless. Wagner describes the meeting: "Meyerbeer was absolutely paralysed when he saw me, and this put me into such a frame of mind that we found it impossible to exchange a word".

Controversial in his handling of professional matters, Meyerbeer presents his noblest traits in the confines of his family. He was deeply attached to his mother, a widely respected and highly cultured woman. Of his surviving two brothers, Wilhelm was his close confidant and adviser whose criticism he

would willingly accept. But Wilhelm's advice, though genuinely well-meaning, could be quite unscrupulous and often cynical.

Minna, Meyerbeer's wife—and also his cousin—suffered from long spells of illness and had to spend much time in Baden-Baden. Since the climate of Paris did not suit her delicate constitution, the couple had to put up with many months of separation which produced a lively correspondence. There is not the slightest indication that this affected the happiness of their marriage: the letters in the new volume only confirm the earlier impressions of Meyerbeer as a devoted husband who continued to be very much in love with his "suesse Lillie".

After the early loss of two children, three surviving daughters brought much joy into Meyerbeer's life. Writing to them or about them, he appears as a loving, if slightly "Victorian" father.

Nothing was done about the girls' religious education, Bianca the eldest, was not told about her Jewishness till she was nine. No Jewish ritual was observed, and there is no record of any synagogue attendances. When contemplating the possible birth of a boy Meyerbeer notes that he wants him to be neither circumcised nor baptised. The issue never arose, but it is evident that Meyerbeer, although he kept his youthful promise to remain loyal to his grandfather's religion, came to regard Judaism as a burden; he expressed this with all frankness in a letter to Heine. One wonders what he would have thought of the evaluation which Heinrich Laube published in his Memoirs: "Am letzten Ende war er Jude, welcher als Jude misstrauisch blieb, ob die Emanzipation wirklich halten wuerde . . . Was er im Grunde war: Ein Kuenstler, und zwar mit grossen Faehigkeiten. Welchen Wesens? Welchen Ursprungs? Seine Abstammung, seine Erziehung, der Gottesdienst seiner Vaeter sind in den Herzpunkten seiner Opern deutlich sichtbar. Die Synagoge mit ihren ins Mark dringenden Gesaengen ist klar zu hoeren, sobald es sich um tiefere Dinge handelt . . ." If this is debatable, it is yet symptomatic of German reaction to Meyerbeer's music. In this context it may be worth mentioning that Meyerbeer planned to write an oratorio "Elias" years before Mendelssohn.

One relic of the Jewish heritage is the frequent use of Jewish expressions in the family letters. If Meyerbeer had ceased to be a practising Jew, he was still not devoid of religious feelings. In one of his most touching letters to his wife, who had suffered from depression, he writes:

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SELF AID CONCERT

The annual Self Aid concerts have become a much cherished institution among the former refugees. At this year's concert, held on November 15 in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the artists were the London Mozart players under Peter Susskind, with Tamas Vasary as the piano soloist. The programme was well chosen, laying stress on the classics — well-known and loved by the mainly elderly audience. It was enhanced by the inclusion of Britten's "Simple Symphony", which stands up to its name and, as so often in the works of this many-sided composer, combines simplicity with substance. Young Tamas Vasary proved his perception and virtuosity in the difficult passages of Mozart's Piano Concerto in G, and the Haydn Symphony No. 39 went down well, as was only to be expected. At the end, the ensemble played the indelible Symphony No. 29 by Mozart; perhaps it would have come out better if the first movement had been taken a bit slower and if some of the exuberant passages of this masterpiece had been rendered in a more crisp and accentuated way. Yet this is a matter of interpretation and anyhow does not impair the high musical standard of the concert.

Sandwiched between the first and second part of the programme was the interval, which, at Self Aid concerts, has a function of its own. It serves as a reunion of friends and acquaintances who otherwise do not meet during the year. Of course, by tacit agreement, everybody suppresses the remark that the other one has not got any younger since they met at the previous concert. Yet the eagerness with which everybody looks forward to these annual events proves that they also serve an important social purpose within the community.

The financial proceeds will help Self Aid in its important work for the needy ones in our midst. W.R.

Continued from column 2

" . . . erwiderst Du mir, dass Du bedauerst nicht schon vor 8 Jahren gestorben zu sein, dann haette auch Caecilie nicht existiert etc. etc. Wenn Du Dich auch nicht scheuest, mich so tief zu verletzen, und mir so schonungslos zu zeigen wie so wenig gluecklich Du Dich in Deiner Verbindung mit mir fuehlst, dass sie Dir als gar kein Compens fuer koerperliche Leiden erscheint, so haettest Du Dich doch wenigstens nicht so gegen Gott versuendigen sollen, der Dir zwei so liebe herrliche Kinder geschenkt hat". Characteristically he adds some conciliatory words of understanding for her state of mind.

A great deal of research and scholarship has gone into the editing of the documents and the generous commentary. Even so, perusal of the volume is hardly facilitated by the need to turn back to the previous volumes for some references, nor by the not infrequent lack of annotations on some important point arising from the text; also, the Jewish "vocabulary" has not always been translated. But these are minor shortcomings which detract very little from the edition's outstanding merits.

One must hope that the full evaluation of this immense material—which still leaves the last 19 years to be covered—will one day be undertaken in a comprehensive biographical study. This would not only be a musicological achievement—it would also be a significant contribution to the history of German Jewry.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

NAZI HERO WORSHIP IN MANNHEIM

Some 1,000 members of the extreme right-wing "German People's Union" attended a meeting in Mannheim and tried to put up a memorial plaque for SS Colonel Peiper, killed recently in his house in France — apparently by former resistance members who did not agree with his release from life imprisonment for the murder of 71 American prisoners of War during the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes. During the meeting fraternal greetings from the Spanish Blue Division and from former SS members in Belgium and Holland were read. All political parties and the trades unions protested against the meeting in a counter-demonstration.

BELATED REPENTANCE

In Lüneburg, 24-year-old former NCO Willi Wegener and former customs official Ralf Ollmann were given prison sentences of 21 months. They confessed to having set fire to a "leftist" bookshop in Göttingen, causing £5,000 worth of damage, and having upset over 100 tombstones in the Jewish cemetery. In 1972 Wegener had desecrated the Belsen memorial, burned 20 wreaths laid down there and painted on the memorial "Juda perish" and "Only when Germany is free of Jews, will she be able to breathe freely again". Both men said they were sorry for what they had done and were now loyal and obedient to the constitution of their country.

AN UNSUNG HEROINE

The Israeli Consul in Hamburg presented the Yad Vashem medal to Frau Elisabeth Flügge who courageously helped many Jews under the Nazi régime. Frau Inge Hannes, the widow of the former medical director of the Hamburg Jewish hospital who owed her life to Frau Flügge, attended the ceremony. Frau Flügge had been a teacher at a private school where she protected her Jewish pupils and rented a flat on Lüneburg Heath for the children to spend their holidays. Because of her refusal to join a NS organisation, she was transferred to a school in the Hamburg slums, but she continued to look after her Jewish pupils and friends. In July 1943, she offered hospitality to Dr. Hannes and his wife whose quarters had been bombed and looked after them until the end of the war.

HITLER FILM FOR 1977 FILM FESTIVAL

During the 1977 Berlin International Film Festival, a film based on Joachim C. Fest's biography of Hitler will be shown. A number of politicians and scholars have already agreed to take part in a discussion of the book and film after the first night.

EAST AND WEST CLASH AMONG JEWS

During discussions on the problem of Russian Jewish emigrants who do not go to Israel which formed part of the agenda of the annual meeting of the European Council of Jewish Community Services in Berlin, Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West Berlin Jewish community said he understood that some of the recipients of Russian exit permits for Israel decided to go elsewhere. There was a large attendance of delegates from East European Countries who reported about Jewish life in their countries. The Chief Rabbi of Budapest reported that three rabbinical students from Russia were studying at the Budapest theological seminary and a wide range of institutions was functioning in Hungary. The Vice-President of the Czechoslovak community complained that there was no rabbi in Prague, and that a rabbinical student sent to London with the consent of the authorities, had decided not to return after four years.

BERLIN REMEMBERS

In an exhibition of the Dahlem State Museum "Five architects from five Decades", a number of designs by Berlin-born architect Erich Mendelsohn are shown. They were used for buildings in Britain, in the U.S.A. and in Israel. The Berlin Art Library acquired his collection of drawings, sketches, etc. last year. One of his most famous works, the so-called "Mendelsohn-building" in Berlin which he built 50 years ago, will be converted for the use of the "Schaubühne am Halleschen Tor" a theatre in private ownership, which will be subsidised with an amount of DM 40 million for its move to the Mendelsohn building.

Another exhibition is devoted to the works of the Israeli architect Arie Sharon who studied at the Dessau Bauhaus and was a friend of Walter Gropius. He is known internationally as a town-planner and architect and has planned universities, blocks of flats and hospitals in Israel. E.G.L.

FIRST JEWISH ASTRONOMER HONOURED

At Lippstadt in Westphalia, the street where the synagogue once stood, will in future be known as "David Gans-Strasse". David Gans, born at Lippstadt in 1545, was a friend of Kepler and Tycho Brahe and the first German Jewish scientist. His best-known book is a chronological history of the world and of the Jews "Zemach David" (the scion of David). Gans spent the greater part of his life in Prague where he is buried in the famous old Jewish cemetery.

ISRAELI FOOTBALLERS RE-ADMITTED

The International Football Cup Union decided at its Hanover meeting against East-European opposition to re-admit the Israeli Football League but not to arrange for games between East European and Israeli teams.

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OBITUARY

JACOB BORNFRIEND

Jacob Bornfriend (formerly Bauernfreund), the artist, died in London, aged 72. He was born in Slovakia and worked on his parents' farm until he was 19 when he went to Bratislava and Prague to study art and paint a number of surrealist and cubist pictures. He came to London as a refugee in 1939 and spent the war years working in factories. In 1945, he started on his most successful period as a painter and held a number of exhibitions at London galleries, including the Ben Uri Art Gallery, and in several cities on the continent.

CYRIL BENNETT

Cyril Bennett, the 48-year old programme controller of London Weekend Television who fell to his death from a window on his 6th floor flat, was born in Hackney and had been with Rediffusion since 1958. He edited the current affairs programme "This Week" for which he wrote many brilliant documentaries, including "Israel rises" and "Tyranny — the Years of Adolf Hitler". He was buried at the East Ham Cemetery of the United Synagogue where other members of his family are buried.

DR. CURT EPSTEIN

Dr. Curt Epstein, who recently died in Zurich, was during the first post-war years Secretary of State for Jewish Affairs in Wiesbaden, later he became head of the Compensation Department of the Hessian Ministry of the Interior. He left Germany in 1950 and emigrated via Israel to Brazil. Before the war he was a judge in Memel, his city of birth.

Dr. Epstein survived the Kovno and Dachau concentration camps.

E.G.L.

ROLF LOEWENBERG

Mr. Rolf Loewenberg, head of the Legal and Personnel Departments of the Berlin Jewish Community, died on November 11 in his 67th year. When his legal state training was cut short in 1933, he first worked as a consultant. During the war, he had to do forced labour but he was eventually spared the fate of deportation by going underground. After the war, he immediately put himself at the disposal of his surviving fellow-persecutees. For some time he worked with the Berlin municipality, and in 1949, he entered the services of the Berlin Jewish community. He also held office with the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany and the Berlin Federation of political, racial and religious persecutees. Due to his legal training, Rolf Loewenberg rendered signal service in the field of restitution and compensation both by safeguarding the general interests of the victims and as an adviser to individual claimants. He was widely recognised and loved by his numerous Jewish and non-Jewish fellow workers and friends, and his untimely death is a great loss for the community.

E.G.L.

DEATH OF RUSSIAN AIRCRAFT-DESIGNER

Mikhail Gurevich, the Jewish designer of the Soviet MiG fighter aircraft has died in Moscow, aged 84. He became deputy chief of a leading Moscow aircraft factory in 1929 when he created the first MiG plane. Because of the importance of his work, he was not attacked during the antisemitic campaign of Stalin's last years. In 1955 he designed the first Soviet supersonic fighter plane. In her war against the Arab States, Israel had to contend with a wide variety of Gurevich-designed aircraft, flown by Soviet, Syrian and Egyptian pilots.

NEWS FROM THE EAST

SOVIET JEWS WANT LINKS WITH WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

At the meeting of the World Jewish Congress' governing board in Geneva, Dr. Nahum Goldmann was authorised to seek exploratory talks with the Soviet authorities after Rabbi Rosen, chief Rabbi of Romania, had conveyed a request from the head of the Moscow congregation to establish links with the WJC.

UNEXPECTED MIGRANT TO ISRAEL

Whereas many emigrants from Soviet Russia settle in the West instead of in Israel when arriving in Vienna, Mr. Alexander Ackerman, a veterinary surgeon, did the opposite. He left Russia with an exit permit for the United States, but went to Israel instead.

BOURNEMOUTH WATCHDOGS

Mr John Cordle, Conservative M.P. for Bournemouth East and a member of the newly formed Bournemouth Helsinki Agreement Watchdog Committee which includes members of the Church, Law, Parliament, T.U. Movement, and Southampton University, has pledged his support in persuading the Soviet authorities to allow the microbiologist Vladimir Rais of Vilnius, a twin-town of Bournemouth, to join his family in Israel.

UNSPORTING RUSSIANS

Israel's basketball champions will receive four gratis points in the finals of the European Cup, because the Soviet Champions whom they have to play have refused to come to Tel Aviv or to play host to the Israelis in Moscow. At Soviet insistence the return games will be held in Belgrade.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge; any voluntary donation would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

Births

Hahn.—Richard Lewis was born on November 25 to Eve and Michael, of 39 Brook Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex. (First grandchild for Lissy and the late Rudi Hahn and Alf and Celia Kleinman.)

Lieberman.—To Frank and Linda a daughter, Alexis Claire, on December 15. (First grandchild to Illy and Freddy Lieberman of 39 Iverna Gardens, W.8.)

Birthdays

Phillips.—Miss E. Phillips, of 108 Vivian Court, Maida Vale, London, W.9, celebrated her 80th birthday on December 30, 1976.

Sussman.—Mrs. Hildegard Sussman, of 29 Yale Court, Honeybourne Road, N.W.6, will celebrate her 80th birthday on January 7 with love and good wishes from all her family.

Deaths

Ehrlich.—Mrs. Adele Ehrlich passed away peacefully on December 4, aged 90. Deeply mourned by her loving family and many friends.—687 Shirley Road, Birmingham 28.

Hahn.—Rudi, of 97 Park Avenue North, London, N.W.10, passed away suddenly on December 5. Deeply mourned by his wife, Lissy, sister, Berti, and brother-in-law, Max Meyer, children, Vivien and Michael, and families.

Lipton.—Leslie Lipton, formerly Lothar Lippstadt, born November 27, 1904 in Hamburg, died on December 9. Deeply mourned by his widow, Leni, son, Michael, daughter-in-law, Merle, Emanuel and all his friends.

Spira.—Albert Spira, of 78 March Court, Warwick Drive, London, S.W.15, passed away peacefully on November 6. Deeply mourned by his wife, family and friends.

Warten.—Rudi (Wartenberger), formerly Berlin, passed away suddenly on October 29, aged 68. Deeply mourned by his wife, Ruth, daughter, Helen, relatives and friends. 19 Omaston Road, Leicester.

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WIDOWER, North London, wishes to meet lady, 60 or 65, for companionship only. Box 638.

Missing Persons

Personal Enquiries

Carey.—Solicitors for Donald Carey wish to contact Mrs. Ilse Carey, formerly Stier, who was married on June 19, 1945, to Donald Carey and whose address was then 48 Randolph Avenue, London, W.9. Her father's name was Albert Stier. Would Mrs. Carey or anybody who can give information about her contact Goodwin & Knipe, of 204 Portobello Road, London, W.11. 01-727 0529.

Salomon.—Mr. Kurt Salomon, physician, born in Opladen on January 7, 1911, emigrated to the U.K. in about 1935/36. Last known address (in 1956) 25 Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.3. Could any readers who know particulars about him and/or his family, give details to Box 635.

Sinclare.—Richard Sinclair (formerly Segal), born in Leipzig about 1906, a diamond merchant, is sought by his nieces Pauline and Freda, now in Mexico. Box 637.

AJR Enquiries

Kurti.—Mrs. J. Kurti; last known address 9 Wycombe Gardens, London, NW11 8AN.

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Theatre and Cultural News

A Golden Year. Lovers of light music have every reason to remember 1927, now 50 years away, for it was the real vintage year when Franz Lehár created the "Zarewitsch" and Fred Raymonds' name came into the open with his sensational "Ich hab' mein Herz in Heidelberg verloren". Simultaneously, the American musical scene was enriched by Jerome Kern's "Showboat", now a real classic, and the tune of "Old Man River" has been whistled by millions for half a century.

Hamburg. In honour of Carl Zuckmayer on the occasion of his forthcoming 80th birthday, the Thalia Theater is preparing a new production of his most popular work, the "Hauptmann von Köpenick".

Vienna. A play based on the diary of Anne Frank was given its première at one of Vienna's "little" theatres, the "Zentrum". It was intended mainly for the young generation. Yet according to the reviews, the audience was little impressed by the performance, apparently because it mainly consisted of people who were largely uninformed about the happenings in "those" years.

Authors who still matter. Werfel's "Jacobowsky and the Colonel" had its first performance at the Stadttheater, Klagenfurt. "All is Comedy", a play based on notes found among the papers of the late Franz Molnar, will have its première in Innsbruck.

Otto Preminger, one of the most prominent Hollywood directors, has acquired the production rights of Moshe Dayan's book "Story of my Life", which is to be filmed during the spring of 1977. Dayan has agreed to act as adviser.

Birthdays. Maria Ivogün, famous coloratura and, in later years, a singing teacher, celebrated her 85th birthday in Thun (Switzerland). Stage and screen actress Paula Wessely, at present playing the role of Lady Bracknell in Wilde's "Importance of being Earnest" at the Vienna Burgtheater, will be 70 on January 20th.

Obituary. Anton Profes, composer of several hundred song hits and celebrated as European "Schlagerkönig", has died at the age of 80. His greatest success came in 1929 with his universally acclaimed "Was macht der Maier auf dem Himalaya?" S.B.

PERSONALIA

Wolfson Prize for Pevsner

Seventy-four-year-old Sir Nikolaus Pevsner was awarded the £5,000 Wolfson Literary Award for his latest book "The History of Building Types" and for his contribution through many years to the social history of Europe in general and the history of architecture in particular.

A Family Tradition

The minister of the Pinner and District Synagogue, Rabbi Jacob Grunewald, obtained a rabbinical diploma at Jews' College where his father, the former Munich rabbi, also obtained his diploma.

Musical Tribute to the Martyrs

Australian composer Malcolm Williamson who is a Roman Catholic introduced one of the "Composer's Choice" Concerts with the Mozart Players. The centre piece at this concert in Queen Elizabeth Hall was his concerto for harp, subtitled "Au tombeau du martyr juif inconnu". Martina Geliot who played the harp is a winner of the Israeli King David Prize. In his programme note Williamson described how one sunny day at lunchtime he had lost himself in the Jewish Quarter in Paris. "I came upon a huge bronze monument inscribed in Hebrew and French, a tall, impressive granite building, the Tomb of the Unknown Jewish Martyr, and boys from the Star of David School stood around it collecting for Freedom from Hunger".

Birthday Concert for Joseph Horovitz

Many musical colleagues contributed to a birthday concert to celebrate the 50th birthday of Joseph Horovitz, son of the original publisher of Phaidon Books who came to this country from Vienna after the Anschluss. During the war, he gave recitals and lectured to the forces on musical appreciation.

A Moslem at the Synagogue

Shaikh Gamal, the Imam of the Regent's Park Mosque, gave a talk at the Westminster Synagogue to a large audience.

German Awards

The 1976 Prize of *Inter Nationes*, Bad Godesberg was awarded to Michael Hamburger, Berlin-born poet and translator in London, best known for his translations of Hölderlin, Rilke and Grass. This is the latest of a number of German distinctions conferred on Hamburger, a member of the Royal Society of Literature and of the Academy of Arts in West Berlin and in Munich.

Sir Ernst H. J. Gombrich who has been director of the Warburg Institute since 1959, received this year's DM 15,000 Hegel Prize of the city of Stuttgart. The prize is only awarded every third year to men and women "who have rendered signal services to the arts and sciences". Ten years ago, when the University of Hamburg commemorated the founder of the Warburg Institute, Aby M. Warburg, on the occasion of his centenary, Professor Gombrich was invited to give the memorial address. E.G.L.

English Study of Max Frisch

A book on the novels of Max Frisch by Michael Butler, lecturer in German at Birmingham University, has just been published by Oswald Woolf (Publishers) London. In his dramas, "Andorra" and "The Fire-Raisers", Frisch has dealt with the great problems of our times, but his novels may prove to be his most significant contribution to modern European literature. Earlier this year, he received the German Publishers' Peace Prize.

Jewish Queen's Scout

At the Guildhall, London, the Chief Scout, Sir William Gladstone, presented Alan Cohen of the Donald Paterson Venture Scout Unit with the Queen's Scout Award. Two of Alan's three brothers have previously received the award, too, and the youngest, Neil is now working for it. The Cohen brothers are the only Jewish Scouts in the Hackney Group and the award is the highest a scout can receive.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KOESTLER'S "THIRTEENTH TRIBE"

Sir,—It was with growing dismay that I read Mr. J. J. Maitlis' review of Arthur Koestler's latest book "The Thirteenth Tribe", in the November, 1976 issue of AJR Information.

Whether or not one agrees with the hypothesis that East European Jewry is largely, if not predominantly, of Khazar origin, a new book on this subject is of sufficient interest to AJR readers to deserve better than the shallow and superficial treatment given to it by Mr. Maitlis.

When Mr. Maitlis asks whether the Sephardim and the Yemini Jews must now also be regarded to descend from the Turks, he ignores that Koestler specifically distinguishes between "semitic" Sephardim and the Ashkenazim. When Mr. Maitlis asks with clumsy irony whether the western Yiddish dialect was "a cultural off-shoot of the linguistically potent Khazars", he ignores that Koestler has devoted a whole chapter to a hypothesis why the Khazars, after their arrival in Poland, adopted the German-Jewish dialect. Did Mr. Maitlis actually read Koestler's book, or only reviews of it?

I am however more perturbed about Mr. Maitlis' attack on Koestler for having rendered "a premeditated disservice to Israel and to the Jewish people on the whole", by suggesting that present-day Jews have no historical or genealogical link with ancient Jews and hence with the promised land. Koestler has in fact recognised this danger and dealt with it in the last appendix to the book.

The point at issue is however surely a different one. The possibility of a Khazar link with East European Jewry is of considerable historical interest, not only to Jews. Does Mr. Maitlis really suggest that the discussion of this possibility should be suppressed just because it might provide ammunition to anti-Zionist propaganda?

Finally I would like to express my bewilderment at Mr. Koestler's thesis, also taken up by Mr. Maitlis, that if a Khazar origin could be proved for the Ashkenazim, then the term

"antisemitism" would become void of meaning. The term "antisemitism", whether political, religious or racial, has surely been always confined exclusively to opposition against the Jews. Evidence of a Khazar background to East European Jewry might perhaps have resulted in the use of a different phrase, but would have made no difference to either the concept of antisemitism, nor to its historical development. At the most, in medieval times, the accusation of the Jews being the descendants of the killers of Christ might have lost its force, but even then the hostility of the Church would probably have been even greater if Judaism had to be acknowledged as a proselytising religion.

W. BUCKNALL

204 Sheen Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

Dr. J. MAITLIS writes:

Book criticism must not and cannot always be complimentary, and it would have been more befitting if Mr. Bucknall had used a less aggressive language in his remarks. Even if his implication that I had only read other reviews and not Koestler's book itself had been correct, I would have been in good company, because quite a few other reviewers also rejected Mr. Koestler's thesis.

Koestler states quite categorically that East European Jewry was 100 per cent of "Khazar origin", and claims that "here (in Eastern Europe) we have the cradle of the numerically and culturally dominant part of modern Jewry". The question arises how to ascertain that the Khazar immigration was a decisive factor in the formation of Eastern European Jewry. Disregarding the mass influx of Ashkenazi Jews from the West, Mr. Koestler's thesis may naturally lead to the conclusion that the greater part of today's Jewry in Israel is of Khazar and thus of Turkish origin!

I made it quite clear in my review that some offshoots of the judaised Khazars settled in Eastern Europe and ranked as part of the Jewish people without any "racial" distinction. There was, however, certainly no

need, as Koestler suggests, for Yiddish to be invented by the Khazars. The existence of Western Yiddish and of a flourishing old-Yiddish folk literature in medieval Germany is uncontroversial. Yiddish was born in Germany and later struck deep roots in Eastern Europe to become a potent, cultural and formative factor of the life of East European Jewry.

[For lack of space we could only publish an abbreviated version of Dr. Maitlis's reply. Without wanting to take sides in the controversy we wish, however, to state that the description of Dr. Maitlis's review as "shallow and superficial" is unjustified. In fact we allocated considerably more space than usual to his article. After the publication of the review, quite a few readers, among them several expert scholars, spontaneously expressed their approval of Dr. Maitlis's argumentation. The correspondence is now closed.—The Ed.]

YOUNG POST-WAR IMMIGRANTS

Sir,—I am writing a novel under the auspices of the Arts Council for Great Britain; for background information I should like to talk to people who came to this country as children at the end of the Second World War, after having been in concentration camps.

KAREN GERSHON

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