

AJR INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

AJR GENERAL MEETING

The Tasks Ahead

This year's Annual General Meeting, held on May 25 at Hannah Karminski House, gave members not only detailed information on the work going on in the AJR but, in the second part of the function, also provided them with an expert analysis of the political trends which affect Anglo-Jewry at large.

The meeting was opened by the chairman of the AJR, Mr. C. T. Marx, who, in his introduction, paid tribute to the memory of the Executive and Board members who had died during the past year: Mr. Simon Bischoff, who was for many years a member of the Executive, and the Board members Mr. Rudolf Apt, Mr. G. Streat and Mr. G. L. Tietz.

In his report on the general position of the Jews from Germany, Dr. W. Rosenstock, Director of the AJR, recalled that for us war had commenced 45 years ago, when the Nazis seized power and the Jews became outcasts. During the first five years from 1933 onwards the emigration process was comparatively slow; this had its reason in the unwillingness of other countries to accept new immigrants but was, to some extent, also due to the structure of German Jewry, a middle-class and middle-aged community. Things changed after the November 1938 pogroms, and it must never be forgotten that of the 100,000 German Jews who could be saved during the few months before the outbreak of war, 40,000 found refuge in this country.

Turning to questions of restitution and related subjects, the speaker stated that, whilst most indemnification claims of the Jews from Germany had been settled, many claims were still pending under the Social Insurance Law and the Equalisation of Burden Law (*Lastenausgleichsgesetz*). There were also some changes with regard to the UK taxability of certain current payments. *AJR Information* always kept its members informed on any new developments. Together with other organisations of Jewish Nazi persecutees, it also safeguarded the general interests of the community whenever there was a danger of legislative or administrative actions which might impair the rights of the victims. The AJR also constantly received enquiries from members—and non-members—on their personal cases. Whilst sometimes these questions were of a general nature and could be answered by the office, the actual handling of the individual compensation or tax problems could only be taken up in a professional way by legal advisers and accountants respectively. The speaker also reported that the scope of URO, once the greatest legal agency in the world, was gradually decreasing and that URO's annual deficits could only be covered by the reserves set aside during peak years. Whilst URO would be able to continue its vital work in the foreseeable future, it was felt by those in charge that the time had come

to commence deliberations on measures to be taken in the interest of the remaining claimants after URO would have ceased to exist.

The work on the *history of immigration* under the auspices of the Council, carried out for Britain by Mrs. Margot Pottlitzer, was making further progress. In addition, quite a few research workers, British and German, were now dealing with certain special aspects in depth, and the AJR was often asked for material or for information about sources which might be available.

As before, *AJR Information* tried to give a balanced picture of events and published articles and book reviews of special relevance to people of our background. Beyond this, our monthly was an indispensable link between headquarters and all members.

The AJR co-operated with all major Jewish organisations. The contacts were particularly close with the Central British Fund with which we jointly administered the Old Age Homes and the Flatlet Home. There were also most friendly relationships with the premier Jewish organisation in this country, the Board of Deputies. Furthermore, we were represented at the recently founded Committee of Yad Vashem, the Memorial of the Holocaust near Jerusalem. One of the Committee's tasks was the collection of names of persons who had perished in the Holocaust, and the speaker appealed to all members to ask for the registration forms at the Board of Deputies, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1. The particular impact of the Holocaust on our section of European Jewry found its expression in this year's Commemoration Meeting, at which, for the first time, the supporting speech on behalf of the sponsoring organisations was delivered by a representative of the AJR, our chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx.

The next speaker, Mrs. S. R. Taussig, General Secretary of the AJR, reported that our membership was still nearly 4,000 and our minimum fee remained at £5 per annum, where it had been for the last four years. Fortunately, in a period when the value of money had been halved, many of our members were generous enough to send more than the minimum which just covers the cost of production and postage of *AJR Information* but leaving little over to pay for all our other work. Dealing with the manifold welfare activities of the AJR, Mrs. Taussig first referred to our Communal Centre, Hannah Karminski House, which accommodates the AJR Club and also provides seven bedsitting rooms. There are five more bedsitting rooms in Marie Baneth House at West Heath Drive. A further house in Finchley, acquired about a year ago, was nearly ready for occupation. It comprised nine bedsitting rooms, a common room and a caretaker's flat. Each room had a mini kitchen, and direct communication with the caretaker

was also provided. It had been decided to name the Home Otto Hirsch House to honour his memory and keep it alive after the closure of the Home in Kew.

Our other property, jointly owned with the Central British Fund, was Eleanor Rathbone House. As always, the 50 flats were fully occupied. This also applied to the Old Age Homes, jointly administered with the Central British Fund. There were people waiting to go in though at present they could be admitted in a relatively short time, provided they can be accepted by the Medical Officer. There were, however, very serious problems in staffing the Homes. Suitable people were hard to find, even with the much improved rates of pay which have resulted from a considerable degree of unionisation. The members of the House Committees were assiduous in visiting the Homes and talking to the residents; they also worked very hard to provide entertainment and treats to improve the quality of life in the Homes. All thanks were due to their consistent voluntary work. Group physiotherapy had proved very beneficial, and we would still like people to help with occupational therapy in the form of communal games such as bingo and scrabble which are very much enjoyed.

The speaker expressed the view that it would be highly desirable to provide a unit, preferably within a Home, to care for the very frail in our community, whether mentally or physically or both. In her opinion it would be wrong to say that such people must be cared for by the National Health Service or privately. We had moved slowly along the path to complete services for all those in need, except for these people at the very end of their lives.

The work involved in assessing people for admission to Homes was arduous and complicated and was carried out with great devotion by our social workers in the Old Age Homes Department. They considered each person in a totally individual way and saw to it that they were never reduced to a number in a list.

Turning to the other facilities provided for by the AJR, Mrs. Taussig reported that the Meals-on-Wheels Service now delivered about 900 meals per month; the recipients included residents at Eleanor Rathbone House and would also be extended to prospective residents of Otto Hirsch House.

The Social Services Department at Fairfax Mansions was quite remarkably successful in finding jobs for the jobless and finding the right person to fill vacancies which occur. Although accommodation was rarely available, it was sometimes possible to combine the requirements of those who had a spare room with those of people who wished to move. Employment and accommodation questions were, however, only a comparatively small part of the department. Of inestimable value was the constant counselling and support for people who had specific problems and for

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AJR General Meeting

those whose greatest problem was acute loneliness, which could not be cured but could be and was relieved as far as possible.

The various forms of social work—now the main function of the AJR—would, with the help and support of the members, have to be continued for a long time to come.

The Financial Report was given by Mr. L. Spiro, Hon. Treasurer of the AJR. He stated that according to the audited accounts for 1977, last year both the expenditure and the income had risen by about £4,000 as compared with 1976. The total expenditure amounted to £45,700; leaving a deficit of £160. Due to the inflation, a further rise of expenditure during the current year was to be expected. The speaker therefore appealed to the members for a voluntary increase of their support, whenever possible. He also considered it imperative to increase the number of members. Every member, Mr. Spiro said, knew non-members among his relatives and friends and should make it his task to make them join our ranks.

The reports were followed by the election of the Executive and Board members for the year 1978/9. The Executive will comprise the following members: Mr. A. S. Dresel (Life President), Mr. C. T. Marx (Chairman), Dr. F. E. Falk (Vice-Chairman), Mr. L. Spiro (Treasurer), Mrs. S. Taussig (General Secretary), Dr. W. Rosenstock (Director), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. O. E. Franklyn (Trustee), Mr. E. K. Heyman, Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Mr. M. Kochmann, J.P. (Trustee), Dr. E. A. Lomnitz, Mr. E. A. Sonnenberg, Dr. Laura Stein. In accordance with the proposals of the Executive, published in the May issue, the present Board members were re-elected and Dr. J. J. Halpern, Mr. W. M. Lash, and Mr. W. Salinger were co-opted to the Board.

The business of the General Meeting was followed by an elucidating address given by Mr. Martin Savitt, Chairman of the Defence and Group Relations Committee of the Board of Deputies. He stated that there were danger signals both from the extreme Right and the extreme Left. However, as the extreme Left was split into various groups, the danger from the Right, the National Front, was more imminent. It would be a mistake to be complacent and to take it for granted that "it cannot happen here". The Jews were a minority like the black and brown minorities and once attacks against the coloured minorities started, the Jews were bound to be next in line. Both the coloured and the Jews were used as scapegoats and ultimately, as in Weimar Germany, the whole concept of democracy would be in jeopardy. Furthermore, the proposed stoppage of immigration was linked with the postulate of repatriating the immigrants and descendants of immigrants. In his passionate speech, in the course of which he presented a comprehensive analysis of the situation, Mr. Savitt also mentioned that the tactics of the National Front included the infiltration of their followers into the main political parties. Dealing with the methods of combating the movement, the speaker expressed the view that street demonstrations would be counter-productive, because they would only give undue publicity to the National Front and make martyrs of its members. Instead, contact with local and national organisations and solid information of the general public would be more effective.

In his vote of thanks to the speaker, Dr. F. E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, paid tribute to Mr. Savitt not only for his outstanding address but also for his relentless activities for the cause of Anglo-Jewry's civic rights.

THE SHADOW OF THE SWASTIKA**A Sequel**

In the May issue of *AJR Information*, we reported on the BBC Programme "Blind Eye to Murder" which has led to strong controversies in Germany, and, to a lesser degree, in this country. Our friend Herbert Sulzbach of the Federal German Embassy, has sent us copies of a vast correspondence he had on this subject, beginning with an exchange of letters with the producer of the documentary Tom Bower who consulted him before embarking on his research, but frequently disregarded his advice and also qualifications made by people he interviewed in Germany. Dr. Robert M. W. Kempner, who acted as prosecuting counsel for the Americans in Nuremberg and in the "Wilhelmstrassenprozess", took the initiative to write a review in the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" under the title "Justitia is not blind, but she limps." He said the BBC's allegation that there had been a plot between Chancellor Adenauer, General Lucius D. Clay and High Commissioner McCloy to stop the prosecution of war criminals after the Nuremberg Trial, was untenable. He had drawn the BBC's attention to this fact, but they had disregarded his denial.

Dr. Kempner enumerates a number of well-conducted German trials against major war criminals, but stresses that not all trials were conducted with sufficient zeal, that doubtful medical certificates had been accepted to excuse defendants from appearing in court etc. On the other hand, an army of some 100,000 public prosecutors would have been needed to bring all Nazi criminals to justice. This was another circumstance he mentioned to the BBC, and which was disregarded. He ends by pointing out that it was untrue that the Americans had sent several hundred lawyers to attend the trials in Germany, and that most of them had been Jewish refugees. At Nuremberg, only five or six of several hundred prosecutors were refugees, and Dr. Kempner himself was the only head of a department among them.

In the meantime, there have been quite a few incidents in Germany which point to the awareness of the authorities and of large parts of the public that steps must be taken against neo-Nazism wherever it appears.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior has published statistics which show that the membership of the NPD has sunk from 9,700 to 9,000 only one-third of whom are politically active. In 1969, the Party had 28,000 members. In one of their publications, the NPD complained that it had become a party of grandparents and grandchildren, and that the middle generation was almost completely absent.

The Young Socialists appealed to the government and the courts to apply the Basic Law against the distributors and propagandists of Nazi ideas and asked for better teaching in schools and the spread of information about the background of Nazism through the media. These tasks had been "criminally neglected" so far.

The Bavarian Interior Ministry stated that the number of neo-Nazi incidents in Bavaria had risen from 65 in 1976 to 100 in 1977, but added that this did not constitute a threat to democratic order. There were 36 neo-Nazi groups in Bavaria with a total membership of 4,900.

In a unanimous resolution, the Hamburg city parliament has asked the city government to introduce stricter measures against Right-wing radicals, and to use all constitutional means to prevent Nazi meetings and to prosecute the distributors of Nazi propaganda

material. At the moment, Hamburg has some 20 extremist parties with a total of 580 members.

Hamburg's Senator of the Interior, Mr. Werner Staak (Socialist) said he was against a ban on extremist parties which would only give them unwanted publicity. However, he strongly advocated a ban on the flood of Nazi publications and particularly on records of Nazi songs of which more than 20 had been advertised in the press.

According to statistics published by the Bonn Ministry of Justice, there have been altogether 148 investigations and court cases connected with neo-Nazi activities since 1st January 1975. In 31 cases prison sentences up to a year and fines up to £1,200 were given. 45 cases had to be suspended because the perpetrators could not be identified, another 21 cases are still before the Courts. The statistics refer to the Länder Baden-Württemberg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, and to the cities of Bremen and Berlin.

At a meeting of the Association of former concentration camp inmates, most of them members of the German Resistance movements, State Prosecutor Dr. Rückerl of the Ludwigsburg Office for the Investigation of Nazi crimes, said he deplored the lack of information about the Nazi past among members of the police forces. They could not be expected to treat right-wing extremists as they should be treated, unless they had been thoroughly instructed about the political background. He also suggested lectures in schools by survivors of the Resistance movement, because many young people did not realise their contribution to the freedom which they now enjoyed. Young people did not want scholarly history lessons which went above their heads, but they would respond to the highly emotive personal experiences of those who had been punished and tortured because they had fought for that freedom.

During a police raid on the "International Collectors' Exchange" in Stuttgart, Nazi daggers, uniforms, and swastika badges were seized from some 15 traders and taken away in five large sacks. Before the opening of the exhibition, the police had inspected the stands and demanded the removal of all Nazi emblems.

A leading social worker in Kreis Schleswig-Holstein, former NPD deputy Karl-Ernst Leber, was summarily dismissed, because he had put official halls at the disposal of Right-wing extremist organisations for meetings and accommodation. On one occasion, the notorious "Viking Youth" had held manoeuvres in a youth hostel. Participants wore black uniforms and were armed with knives. Their programme had included "military exercises".

In West Berlin, the police have broken up a neo-Nazi group headed by a 35-year-old man. He and eight other people were taken into custody.

In Ludwigshafen, Manfred Adler, a teacher of religion, was dismissed because he had published anti-Jewish material, including a book "The Sons of Darkness".

The newspaper "Die Welt" published a special Israel supplement in which Axel Springer the publisher said in an article: "Even 35 years after Auschwitz, the Germans must still endeavour to find reconciliation with the Jews throughout the world . . . When Germans seek Arab favours at the expense of the Jews they fall back into guilt . . . There should be no obstacles to prevent us from standing firmly at Israel's side."

HOME NEWS

CONTROVERSIAL ANTI-BOYCOTT BILL

A Saudi Arabian blacklist, containing the names of more than 1,100 British firms and British subsidiaries of foreign firms, was presented to the House of Lords Select Committee considering Lord Byers' bill to outlaw foreign boycotts. The list, dated 1975, is subdivided into about 20 per cent of firms and organisations alleged to have "Zionist tendencies", and another 22 per cent which did not reply to the boycott questionnaire. Those with Zionist tendencies include Marks & Spencer, Lex Garages, Great Universal Stores, the Alliance Building Society, the British Shoe Corporation and the Jewish Chronicle. Public companies on the list are firms like the Distillers' Company, Gestetner Holdings, Pearl, Phoenix, and Prudential Assurance, Thorn Electrical, Rank Xerox, and N. M. Rothschild. Among the subsidiaries of foreign firms, there are the Ford Motor Company, Helena Rubinstein, Hertz (UK), Revlon International, Hitachi Sales (UK) and De Beers Consolidated Mines. There are also 15 Jewish organisations, three of which are different groups of B'nai B'rith.

During the committee sittings, representatives of the British Chambers of Commerce voiced their opposition to Lord Byers' Bill which "would push trade from Great Britain to the other EEC countries". Mr. Newsome, director-general of the Association, said that exporters to the Middle East might have to complete a boycott declaration, and issue "negative certificates" stating that the goods supplied do not originate from Israel or contain Israeli materials. Since 1974, Chambers of Commerce have agreed to authenticate the traders' signatures on such certificates.

Mr. Maslow, general counsel of the American Jewish Congress, who put the blacklist before the committee, said that in America where anti-boycott legislation existed, this had not adversely affected exports to Arab countries. On the contrary they had been steadily increasing. Traders were chosen for the quality of their goods. Asked how he obtained the blacklist, Mr. Maslow said he had sent 25 dollars to the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, asking for a copy, and had received it.

The British Bankers Association whose membership includes more than 200 foreign banks, has submitted written evidence to the committee opposing the bill on the grounds that nothing should be done to "undermine the unique position and standing of London as an international banking market". Boycotting countries might withdraw sterling and other balances if the act were to be passed.

POST OFFICE IN BOYCOTT DEAL

The Post Office has secured its third contract with Libya by achieving a £4 million telecommunications sale bringing the total of orders from Libya to £11 million. It refuses information on its compliance with boycott clauses, but a spokesman said that the PO, though a State industry, had to compete with foreign markets.

BRITAIN OUT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BODY

For the first time since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, Britain is not a member of the Commission on Human Rights. She was defeated by a combined vote of Communist and Third World States. Canada was elected in Britain's place. Other newly elected members are Burundi, Uruguay, Bulgaria and Iraq. Mr. Chaim Herzog, Israel's representative at the UN, commented: "The cause of human rights will doubtless benefit from Iraq's record on elementary rights practised on its Assyrian minority, its genocide against the Kurds, and its hangings of Jews in Baghdad's public square."

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle

CHIEF RABBI PRAISES BEGIN

At the Paris Conference of European Rabbis, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits, said Mr. Begin was the first Israeli Prime Minister "to speak as a Jew, think as a Jew and act as a Jew". More than 100 rabbis from 18 countries attended the meeting. At the same time, synagogue lay readers from Britain, France, Holland, Israel and West Germany formed the first permanent European organisation for cooperation among synagogues in the fields of Jewish education, youth exchange and support for Israel.

NO TEL AVIV STOCK EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS

When the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce protested to the "Financial Times" against its decision to drop the weekly Tel Aviv Stock Exchange quotations, the editor, Mr. Frederick Fisher, a Jewish refugee from Germany, said this had been done because of lack of space, but only three complaints had so far been received.

SIR NEIL CAMERON'S REMARKS

Sir Neil Cameron, Britain's Chief of the Defence Staff, who recently got into trouble for anti-Soviet remarks made during a visit to China, said in an interview with a reporter of "Areopagus", the journal of the London Bible College at Northwood: "Goodness knows the number of Jews being exterminated in the Soviet Union". He also described the Soviet Union as "the anti-Christ".

CARDINAL HEENAN FOREST

At the invitation of the Duchess of Norfolk and Sir Charles Forte, Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, attended a luncheon to mark the planting of a forest of 50,000 trees in Israel to commemorate his predecessor, Cardinal Heenan. Cardinal Hume remembered Heenan's great respect for the Jewish community and expressed the hope that the strong relationship between the Catholic Church and this community which he had initiated would grow stronger and stronger.

GRATITUDE TO SOTHEBY'S

As a result of the charity auction held by the women's group of the Hebrew University's scholarship fund which realised £33,000, the university has established a scholarship in honour of the Sotheby director and auctioneer Mr. Philip Wadsworth who flew to Jerusalem to take the sale.

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Liverpool's Harold Wilson Forest

Sir Harold Wilson was the guest of honour at the Liverpool JNF Israel Independence Day ball. Over £6,400 was raised to plant a forest of 10,000 trees in Kfar Kana, Galilee. The chairman of the committee said this was a tribute from British Jewry to a "great statesman and loyal and devoted friend of the Jewish people and of Israel". Sir Harold expressed the hope that in the not too distant future, Jews and Arabs would settle their differences and live in harmony together.

Jewish National Front Candidate

"Bulldog", the National Front's youth section paper, said that Gerry Viner who stood as a Front candidate at the recent borough council elections, was "a leading Jewish member". His presence, claims the paper, put an end to the myth that the NF was a Nazi party. At an election meeting Viner said: "I am a Jew and proud to be a NF member. The Jews have preserved their race for thousands of years because they are racialists. The NF wants to do the same thing — preserve the British race". The other NF candidate received 393 votes, Viner only 302.

New Ministers appointed

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, 30, a Cambridge philosophy graduate and lecturer in philosophy and Talmud at Jews' College, has been appointed minister of the Golders Green Synagogue. He succeeds Rabbi Eugene Newman who died in December, 1976.

Rabbi Dr. Harry Rabinowicz has been elected minister of both the Cricklewood and the Willesden synagogues. He will attend each synagogue on alternate Saturdays and hold week-end services in between. The new rabbi is an authority on Chasidism on which he has written eight books.

Invitation from Maharishi

Maharishi International College recently held an Israel day at its country seat, Roydon Hall in Paddock Wood, Kent. It invited a number of Israeli families and their friends to attend a programme called "Making Israel invincible through transcendental meditation". Six weeks earlier, the college held a Palestine day, but one of its teachers said there was no conflict in teaching both Israelis and Palestinians to become invincible by developing their personal potential. In any case, nearly one per cent of Israel's population practised transcendental meditation, more than any other country in the world.

Housing Schemes for the Elderly

The Duke of Gloucester congratulated the Westlon Housing Association on its first venture, when he opened Annette White Lodge for the Elderly in Finchley. This sheltered housing scheme consists of 26 bedsitter flatlets and eight two-room flatlets with a resident supervisor. The Duke said that as an architect he found the concept of the building particularly attractive. The Westlon Housing Association was set up by members of the West London Synagogue in 1973 under the chairmanship of Judge King-Hamilton.

Work has also begun on the complete modernisation of Nightingale House, the Home for Aged Jews at Wandsworth. It will cost £800,000 and will take two years. At a dinner held at the King David Suite, London, £212,000 was raised of which Sir Charles Clore contributed £100,000. His brother David, chairman of the appeals committee, said Nightingale House with its 400 residents, was one of the finest old-age homes in Europe.

Girls called up in Synagogue

Five girls took part in a batmitzvah ceremony in the 50 years old Liverpool Progressive Synagogue. They were all "called up" by their Hebrew names and each chanted a portion of the Torah. They combined to intone the haftara, singing the blessings in unison.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

The Future of American Jews

The New York sociologist, Stephen Cohen, said that he anticipated that by the year 2050 the number of Jews in the United States would have shrunk from six to four million. This forecast was based on the low birth-rate, progressive assimilation, and the increase in mixed marriages.

El Al under duress

At the request of President Carter, the Civil Aeronautics Board has asked for further consideration of El Al's long-standing request for landing rights in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Miami and Los Angeles, because Israel has rejected proposed low-fare flights to Israel by the American TWA. At present, El Al may only land in New York.

Lessons of the Holocaust

The German American National Congress which has 48 groups with some 18,000 members in the United States, has lodged strong protests against the retention and introduction of Holocaust studies into American schools and universities. Such studies have formed part of the syllabus of Harvard, of the Universities of Wisconsin and Michigan, the New York City College and secondary schools in Philadelphia and New York and are now being introduced into further schools and universities. Two lawyers in Tulsa, Oklahoma, sued the local school board for violating the constitution by introducing a "religious" subject into the syllabus of its schools. The court decided, however, that lessons on the Holocaust were lessons in history, rather than religious instruction.

Nazi Demonstration sanctioned

In spite of protests by the town's population which includes a great number of Jews, the US Court of Appeal has ruled that the National Socialist Party of America has the right to stage a demonstration in the Chicago suburb of Skokie. The authorities have therefore authorised the party to send 50 members to put forward their views from the steps of the town hall.

Jewish Heritage Week in New York

All public schools in New York observed the Jewish Heritage Week proclaimed by Mayor Edward Koch, even though some of them had no Jewish pupils. The students were given lessons on Jewish culture and traditions, and the importance of Israel, and black children as well as children from Latin American countries were taught Jewish songs. The week will remain a permanent feature of the schools' syllabus, supervised by the Central Board of Education. Previously there had been similar weeks for other ethnic groups, but never for Jews.

Solar Energy Pact

After intensive discussions a joint programme of solar energy research and development between California and Israel has been agreed upon.

CAMPS

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CANADA

Snub for Saudi Arabians

Mr. Herb Gray, the Jewish Liberal M.P for Windsor, Ontario, raised the question of religious discrimination in Saudi Arabia in the Canadian Parliament. He pointed out that employees of Bell Canada International, sent to work in Saudi Arabia for the Aramco company, were issued with a document requiring them to provide a proof of religion such as a baptismal certificate. He also referred the matter to the newly formed Federal Human Rights Commission which had jurisdiction over employment practices by Canadian firms. Under federal law, companies may not show discrimination, either directly or indirectly, nor may they enquire into the religion of prospective employees.

More refugees to be admitted

By a change in the operation of the Immigration Act, the Canadian Government has made it possible for more "non-conventional" refugees to settle in the country. A special "humanitarian category" for potential refugees would include Soviet Jews, Ukrainians and Poles.

BARON HIRSCH PRIZE FOR LAWYER

The 1978 Baron Hirsch Prize of the Jewish Museum of Buenos Aires was awarded to Dr. Manuel Ordonez, a non-Jewish humanist and jurist. The prize was established by the Argentine Jewish Community and the Jewish museum to commemorate Baron Maurice de Hirsch, the founder of the Jewish Colonization Association (I.C.A.) in 1891 to settle persecuted Russian Jews in Argentina, and elsewhere.

MACEDONIAN MARTYRS REMEMBERED

To mark its 30th anniversary, the Jewish Historical Museum in Belgrade has staged an exhibition of antique synagogue appurtenances and published an illustrated book about the Jews of Macedonia, containing more than 1,000 proverbs and tales about this ancient Sephardi community whose everyday language was Ladino. Before the last war, there were 10,000 Jews in Macedonia. The Nazis deported 7,340 of them to Treblinka, and none survived. Today, only about 100 of Yugoslavia's 6,000 Jews live in Macedonia, 90 of them in Skopje, where memorial services for the martyrs were held on the 35th anniversary of their deportation.

CAIRO CEMETERY DESECRATED

A number of Egyptian Army officers and civilians have desecrated tombs in the Basatine cemetery, the only Jewish cemetery left near Cairo. Two years ago, the small Cairo community had protested against the building of army homes near the cemetery, and President Sadat gave orders for it to be stopped forthwith. However, during the past three months, Egyptian officers and some civilians have begun building homes inside the cemetery and have removed tombstones, either using them as building material or throwing them away.

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ITALY

March Through the Arch of Titus

Until 1948, no Roman Jew, and very few Jews from elsewhere, would pass under the Arch of Titus which commemorates the destruction of the Second Temple by the Emperor Titus in 70CE. Recently, after a service in the main synagogue, the entire congregation passed under the arch, though in the opposite direction to the one taken by their manacled and enslaved ancestors more than 1,900 years ago.

Italy Remembers Jewish Brigade

Representatives of the Italian military and civil authorities and of Italian ex-servicemen's and partisan organisations attended the military ceremony at Piangepane, near Ravenna, where the fallen of the British Army's Jewish Brigade are buried. The Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Shek, said that the Brigade, largely made up of Palestinian Jews, had fought side by side with Italian partisans. At the moment Italy and Israel had a new common enemy—international terrorism.

FRANCE

Sephardis for "Begin Project"

The World Sephardi Federation is asking Sephardim all over the world to support "Begin's plan" to eradicate poverty in Israel and to build 45,000 homes for underprivileged Sephardi families in the country. After his return from Mexico, Mr. Gaon, the federation president, announced at a meeting in Paris, that the Sephardi Jews of Mexico had given him \$15 million for the project, and that he was starting a fund-raising movement in Madrid and Barcelona.

Commemoration in Gurs

The annual commemoration meeting in Gurs was attended by representatives of the French authorities, of the German general consulate, by a delegation from the authorities of Baden and Württemberg and the Jewish communities of those districts from where the Nazis had deported the entire Jewish population to Gurs long before the general deportation to the East started. Several of the speakers drew attention to the attempted bagatellisation of the sufferings of Gurs and the publications by former camp guards in accordance with present-day trends to deny Nazi outrages.

A mysterious Murder

There are a number of theories about the murder of Mr. Henri Curiel, a 63-year-old stateless Egyptian Jew who had lived in France since 1952. During the last few years, he had devoted all his energies to a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He arranged the first meeting in Paris, two years ago, between PLO representatives and Israeli "doves", including Mr. Peled, a former Army quartermaster-general. After Mr. Curiel had been shot at the entrance of his flat in the Quartier Latin by two unidentified young men, an anonymous caller claimed in a telephone message to the Press that Delta, a French Right-wing organisation, had been responsible, but the police discount this possibility. Mr. Curiel was born in Cairo, the son of an Egyptian Jewish banker, and in his youth founded the Egyptian and the Sudanese Communist Parties. In 1951, he was expelled from Egypt and fled to Italy from where he was soon deported. He then settled in France as a refugee.

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THE SILENT FIGHTERS

The History of Amnesty International

After nearly a decade of terror in Ireland and the Middle East, after innumerable "sky-jackings" and taking of hostages and after the verb *kneecapping* became part of the English language as if it belonged to the normal evolution of human thought, spectacular events are needed to jolt our deadened senses: the Schleyer and Aldo Moro cases, the deaths of half a dozen bodyguards, just as helpless as their protégés—these still make headlines. But so blunt have become our feelings, that we tend to forget one thread in the fabric of our time, ten times more frightening than individual acts of violence and cruelty. There is systematic torture and sadistic oppression, hurting and maiming of men and women, stifling of expression—not carried out by criminal fanatics, but by the State. By many States. Systematically and orderly, in the able hands of salaried staff, paid by their governments, with possibly a little extra at the end of the month for special zeal.

We tend to forget but, thank God, not all of us. An institution, founded exactly 17 years ago by one Peter Benenson, a London lawyer, fights for the forgotten Prisoners of Conscience in the whole world. Its name: Amnesty International. Its symbol: a candle burning in the choking grip of a barbed wire spiral—one of the most moving graphic symbols ever designed. In his new book* *Egon Larsen* tells the story of Amnesty International, how it came into being, what it does, what it achieved and where it failed. This is probably the most harrowing story of our time and Larsen tells it with fascinating clarity and detachment, his own deep involvement and compassion precariously hidden behind objective reporting. The publication of his book coincides with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Amnesty.

Amnesty has no political bias. It stands for the basic human right to think independently

and to act according to one's belief without damaging or even influencing anybody else. It tries to keep the conscience of the World awake, which has proved to be increasingly and unforgivably sleepy. And it is our tragedy that so many régimes, totalitarian ones and some in the Third World of non-committed tyrants as well as a few even in the West, are vulnerable to free thought. They too have no political bias and very little in common but the ferocious determination to suppress freedom with all the means at their disposal: torture of ingenious variety, forced labour, "psychiatric treatment," prison slow starvation and hundreds more of the tools developed for cold extermination.

In comparison, Amnesty's weaponry is deplorably inadequate, even pathetic, because it is the weaponry of the spoken and the written word. But it wins battles. It *does* secure the release of prisoners, its observers *do* see to it that a trial is fair, by choosing a "Prisoner of the Year" in countries East and West it got maximum publicity for the cause of all, and it has recruited more than 200,000 members in over 100 countries in an unbelievable short time. (The "Prisoner of the Year" procedure was later abandoned after a minor blunder.)

Larsen describes one of these weapons, the so-called "Kit-Scheme" as follows: "It got its name from the 'kit' which was sent to supporters at their request and consisted of a cardboard container with a handbook on AI, stating its aims and the techniques to be used. There were also thirty-six cards—thirty-three Amnesty greeting cards and three Christmas cards. The handbook gave advice on the type of message to be written . . . according to the country and addresses — to the Head of State, to ministers, prison governors, the prisoner's family, the prisoner himself. Apart from these instructions the handbook also contains a guide to the political history of the

respective State, and every month the kit-holder receives particulars about three topical cases for immediate card-sending. A feeble weapon? Dictatorships are strangely worried about their image and the threadbare reputation of legality — and Amnesty knows it.

In Larsen's mind the historian and the journalist fight each other and both win; the headings of his four main chapters show the system and his sense of commitment. They are called: "Birth and Youth of a Movement," "Totalitarian Torture," "Russia, her Friends and Enemies" and "The Death Penalty; Judicial Murder or Deterrent?" The fifth chapter, headed "Amnesty Ennobled," lists recent achievements in sober language, culminating in the award of the Nobel Peace Prize.

One of the most significant merits of the book—and the author—is the treatment of an issue, which was neglected for so long that it became a sort of taboo—for reasons of simple convenience. This is the question: What or who is a torturer? Who becomes a professional tormenter of his (or her) fellow-men? Sexual perverts? Conscientious servants of the State, doing their duty? Madmen? Loving fathers and husbands with a little sadistic streak, for which they get paid? There is no simple answer, and the various schools of thought in modern psychology did not even try to give one. But from Larsen's painstaking and horribly painful research a few rays of light penetrate this darkest of all worlds.

More than in any other documentary the illustrations play a dominant part: torture victims and torturers' faces, drawings of appalling accuracy, newspaper cuttings, the photostat of a letter from the Soviet Lawyers' Association—wrong spelling and genuine lies in perfect harmony—and the Prize-giving ceremony 1977, culmination and new beginning, it is all there, and the visual impression gives the written word a second dimension and tenfold intensified force.

In a second edition—and very few books deserve a second and a third and fourth edition like this one—a few additions might be considered. The author does mention the so-called "Aden Affair" in 1966 which brought trouble to Amnesty's still shaky organisation, but he does not comment on the role played then by Mr Roderic Bowen, the British QC, who went to Aden at the Foreign Secretary's request. It would be of interest, because it shows the uneasy and sinister situations, in which a democratic and utterly fair government can become entangled. The parallel to the Middle East is obvious. For Amnesty's 5-Year Jubilee in 1966 an anonymous German commentator wrote these lines: "Inzwischen treten Personen in Aktion, die mit AI gar nichts zu tun haben, es sei denn, dass auch sie Freunde der Gerechtigkeit sind. Anwälte, die in einem exotischen Land Klienten vertreten und gleich einmal nach dem verhafteten Gewerkschafter X Erkundigungen einziehen, Mitglieder des Unterhauses, die Informationsreisen mit Intervention für den Kollegen Y verbinden, der das Pech hat, in einem Land mit weniger Rechten Abgeordneter zu sein, Lehrer, Priester, wichtige Persönlichkeiten und ganz und gar unwichtige—sie alle zerren irgendwo und irgendwie an einem tückischen Netz, in dem sich ein Mensch mit politischer Gesinnung verstrickt hat. Die Maschen geben langsam nach und einmal reißen sie. Und vielleicht reisst später einmal das ganze verfluchte Netz mitten entzwei."

Larsen's admirable book still proclaims the same message of hope.

*Egon Larsen: *A Flame in Barbed Wire—The Story of Amnesty International*. Frederick Muller Ltd., London. 136 p. £4.95.

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GHASTLY CONCERTS

Musicians of Auschwitz

It is a strange fact that the SS maintained in Auschwitz two orchestras which were staffed by prisoners, one by men, the other by women. A recently published book, written by a surviving member, has as its subject the women's orchestra (*Fania Fénelon, with Marcelle Routier, The Musicians of Auschwitz*; translated from the French by Judith Landry; Michael Joseph, London, 1977. £5-50).

The orchestra included both "Aryan" and Jewish girls. They worked together, but their situation differed in one fundamental respect: while the "Aryans" were faced with the prospect of indefinite internment, the Jewish members were liable to extermination, reprieved only as long as their temporary survival suited the camp authorities. Their position was therefore similar to that of other "essential workers" who were spared for the time being but knew only too well what their ultimate fate would be unless the Allies—in this case the Red Army—liberated the camp in time.

The orchestra's main function was to play marches while the working parties left the camp in the morning and returned in the evening. But since Auschwitz was a remote place, rather distant from the nearest major town, the orchestra was also summoned to entertain the SS officers and guards and, in addition, some privileged inmates. Himmler, who heard the orchestra when he inspected the camp in 1944, was always concerned with the "welfare" of his SS and permitted, obviously for this reason alone, the performance of music by Jewish as well as by "Aryan" players and singers before his "elite".

The musicians enjoyed certain privileges: their accommodation and clothing—although not their food—was superior to that of the other prisoners. Their barrack was heated, and their daily roll call was held indoors so that, unlike the other inmates, they were not exposed to the rigours of the local climate.

But their barrack was at the Birkenau extermination centre, facing the gas chambers and crematoria; at a later stage they could see the ramp where the trains arrived and the fate of the new arrivals was decided by a wink from Dr. Mengele and other "selectors".

This was the situation in which they had to attend their daily rehearsals—playing music in hell on earth. How could they, how did they cope?

Fania Fénelon, the author, was one of them. Before her deportation she had been a singer in Paris. In Auschwitz, her singing was in demand at the concerts for the SS, and her ability to transcribe music for the particular needs of this orchestra made her even more indispensable.

When the Red Army approached Auschwitz the girls were transferred to Belsen: Fania caught typhus there but was fortunate enough to survive and witness the arrival of the British. Eventually she returned to France.

One approaches a book whose author is a survivor of Auschwitz with a degree of reverence. At the same time, the subject imposes obligations on the author.

Fania Fénelon could have written a pure documentary which would have become an important historical source. She has not done this; instead she has chosen to produce an odd mixture of factual report and fiction. The problems which arise from such treatment are obvious, and they are not diminished by a degree of personal bias which clouds the narrative. Much emphasis is given to the tensions between the members of the orchestra, and

the author's own prejudice against German Jews comes not seldom to the fore. Some names have been changed, but not that of the orchestra's conductor, Alma Rosé who was the daughter of the famous violinist and a niece of Gustav Mahler. With such a background, Alma Rosé had the approach of a perfectionist, and it is not difficult to imagine that it was this commitment which gave her the strength to carry on in an appalling situation. Yet the author "credits" her with the pride of a German in performing before an important German leader like Himmler. . . . This surely is hitting below the belt, and hitting somebody who died in Auschwitz (probably from illness, in any case not by gassing) and cannot answer back. Others, who are also no longer alive, have been treated in similar fashion in the book, and their memory has been tainted.

In spite of these serious shortcomings, which one cannot, and must not ignore, the book contains a great deal of significant information about conditions in the camp and affords some insight into the mentality and the reactions of the SS and of the victims. But it would have been a better and more valuable book if the author had seen her way to adhere more strictly to the facts and exclude some biased comments.

COMMEMORATION MEETING IN LONDON

This year's Meeting in Commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Jewish Martyrs of Nazism was held on May 14 at the Cambridge Theatre. The main speaker was The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, Q.C., Member of Parliament for Hendon South. He recalled that after his liberation from a German prisoner of war camp he was one of the first who saw the horrors of Bergen-Belsen, which had left an indelible impression on him. The Warsaw Uprising, he said, had redeemed the Jewish honour. Turning to the emergence of the State of Israel, Mr. Thomas stated that no country had achieved so much while being faced with so many dangers. He reminded the audience that the pre-June 1967 borders had never been recognised by the Arab states and that, if Israel had had these borders in the first stages of the Yom Kippur war and had not controlled the Golan Heights, "nothing could have stopped Syrian tanks from reaching the Mediterranean".

Dr. F. Summers, Chairman of the Polish Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association, compared the "crocodile tears" now shed at official Polish functions on the occasion of the centenary of the perished Jewish author and educationalist Janusz Korczak with the almost total lack of assistance received by the Jewish resistance fighters from their Polish countrymen.

On behalf of the sponsoring organisations, Mr. C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR, stressed the need to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. He also referred to the fact that between the November 1938 pogroms and the outbreak of war, Britain had given refuge to more persecuted than any other single country. In the course of time, the Jews from the Continent had become integrated into their new environment and contributed to its cultural and economic life. Dealing with current Neo-Nazi incidents in Germany, the speaker said, we must not over-react but, on the other hand, had to recognise the danger.

As in the past, this year's function was most impressive. However, as in previous years, it was not as well attended as the occasion called for. All of us should consider it their duty to set aside each year this one Sunday afternoon to commemorate the relatives and friends we have lost.

Walter Schwab

TERENCE PRITTE'S MEMOIRS

Terence Prittie is a man of deep convictions, but these are frequently masked by his sense of fun and the ridiculous. He is seriously concerned with justice, suffering and human rights, even though he is only too familiar with the corridors of power and politics where these qualities are not always self-evident. The trappings of authority do not impress him and every so often he has an irresistible urge to prick the bubble.

In this light-hearted autobiography*, Prittie shows how he has become what he is. In 1936, whilst still at Oxford, he went to Germany to learn the language in order to sit for the Foreign Office examination. But there he saw a characteristic *Stuermer Kasten* and in a fit of indignation smashed the glass. This inaugurated his personal campaign against the Nazis which culminated in a successful attempt to urinate on the walls of the Brown House, an achievement which, to his regret, was editorially excluded from his entry in an American authors' Year Book.

While serving as a foreign correspondent in Berlin, Prittie was first introduced to Jewish history and sufferings. Prior to that he had known nothing about the Jews. As he himself explains, when he asked his father, an Irish peer, whether he had ever met a Jew, he got the reply: "Met a Jew? What d'ye mean? One doesn't meet Jews!" He visited concentration camps and camps for displaced Jewish persons. He was appalled. He learnt about Zionism and was enthusiastic. He saw Israel with all its warts and was deeply impressed. Since 1970, as an official spokesman, he has developed a new purpose in life as shown by his unflagging efforts to present a balanced picture of Israel's case and achievements.

His autobiography, like the man himself, is light-hearted, full of amusing anecdotes and descriptions. Yet it has an underlying seriousness, for his unassuming account shows his reactions to those world events which have helped to establish his convictions and dictate his actions. It ought to be compulsory reading.

* Terence Prittie: *Through Irish Eyes. A Journalist's Memoirs.* Bachman & Turner. £5-75.

"REQUIEM FOR A BELOVED TEACHER"

Dr. Siegbert Springer remembered

Under the heading "Requiem auf einen geliebten Lehrer" Dr. Walter Schwarz, one of the numerous disciples of the legendary Berlin "Repetitor", Dr. Siegbert Springer, has published a moving article about his "teacher of law" in the July 1977 issue of the periodical "Juristische Schulung" (C. H. Beck Verlag, Munich). He describes the human background of Springer, who was born in the province of Posen, the extremely modest flat in the Spenerstrasse in Berlin-Moabit, where he lived and taught, and, above all, his unique method of teaching. His physical impediment as a stammerer did not hamper his ingenuity as a teacher, and his pupils included sons and daughters of university professors, who realised that the faculty of law might not suffice for their offsprings' preparation for the exams. Dr. Schwarz recalls many examples of the stories by which Springer illustrated the relevant regulations of the law and its application. In May, 1938, he put an end to his life.

At the initiative of Walter Schwarz, a plaque in memory of Springer, who was a conscious Jew, was affixed on April 18, 1978, in the Municipal Library of Kiryat Bialik (Israel). The English translation of the Hebrew text reads: "Dr. Siegbert Springer (1882-1938), blessed teacher of law, fatherly friend and lifelong example to his pupils. In everlasting gratitude: his disciples all over the world".

THE ISRAELI SCENE

ISRAELI FIGHTER PLANES

The Israeli Aircraft Industry is anxiously awaiting an American decision on the £277 million sale of Kfir fighter planes to Taiwan. US consent is necessary, because the aircraft is powered by General Electric jet engines. So far it has been withheld for sales to Ecuador. If it was given for the Taiwan business, the Aircraft Industries would be enabled to proceed with development of an advanced fighter for the 1980s. In a related field, the Tadiran Electronics company has developed a tiny remote-controlled pilotless aircraft which should have many uses in the field of news-gathering. It is eight feet long and has a wingspan of 14 feet and is almost impossible to detect by radar or the naked eye. It is also cheap: it costs about £46,500 each plus monitoring equipment including a TV camera which transmits pictures back to the ground.

ANGER OVER GOLDMANN

There is general indignation in Israel about an interview which Dr. Nahum Goldmann, founder president of the World Jewish Congress, gave to the semi-official Cairo newspaper "Al Ahram". He stated that Israel's foreign policy was "a total bankruptcy". Israel should accept a dialogue with the PLO and the establishment of a separate Palestinian state. If the Middle East conflict was not resolved within the next two years, there would be a violent and destructive war.

ORIENTAL JEWS OFFENDED BY GENERAL

In a newspaper interview, Mr. Mordecai Gur, the former Chief of Staff, said it would take many years for Oriental Jews in Israel to be appointed to senior Army posts. He had studied the Arab mentality and concluded it would take 20 or 30 years before it changed, and the same applied to Jews from Arab countries. Whether or not members of the Defence Forces reached senior rank, depended to a large extent on the country from which they had come.

ARAB STUDIES AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

A new research fund at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has been earmarked for research to eradicate anti-Arab prejudice and to study Arab languages and cultures. The Fund was established by the Stern family, German Jewish settlers who helped to found the village of Ramot Hashavim, near Tel Aviv, in the 'thirties. The Institute for Asian and African Studies has been asked to distribute scholarships and research facilities to suitable applicants.

ARAB-JEWISH STUDENTS' CLUB

Thanks to a donation of some £25,000 from the Federal German Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, an Arab-Jewish Students' Club was inaugurated at the Students' Hostel of Haifa University in the presence of the German Ambassador to Israel and of two Arab professors among the 30 invited guests. The club was dedicated to the memory of Willy Eichler, one of the leaders of the Socialist Vanguard Group who lived in London as a political refugee during the war.

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ARGENTINE WIDOWS' DISCLOSURES

Two young Argentine widows have arrived in Israel as members of a committee to help thousands of people victimised in Argentina for their political views. They said their own husbands had been killed by the Junta, and at least 700 Jews had disappeared during the past two years after being abducted in the streets or from their homes by members of the security forces. Some had been freed on condition that they left immediately for Israel. There was no official antisemitism, but Jewish prisoners were treated much worse than non-Jews.

ELEVEN COUPLES MARRIED BY KNESSET MEMBER

Mrs. Shulamit Aloni, the Citizens' Rights Movement Knesset representative, revealed that during the past year, she had "married" eleven Jewish couples who did not want a religious marriage ceremony. Two witnesses had been present in accordance with Jewish law in which there was nothing to forbid civil marriage. She said that the offspring of such marriages would be legitimate. Rabbis have conceded that there is no law barring such ceremonies, but they are not registered by the Rabbinate or the Ministry of the Interior.

PROTESTS AGAINST BULLFIGHTS

A number of British organisations have lodged vigorous protests against the plan to have bullfights during a "Spanish Week" in Tel Aviv's Bloomfield Stadium, referred to in our June issue. In a cable to the Minister of the Interior, the Assembly of Rabbis of the Reform Synagogues deplored the plan which violates Jewish ethics and will harm Israeli society. Protest petitions were also sent by the Zionist Federation and by pupils of the Wimbledon and District Reform Synagogue.

Impresario Mr. Aharon Berman said that the bullfights have been postponed until mid-July, because owing to court injunctions and protests, advance sale of tickets had been slow. He also said that the bulls would not be killed by the "Matadors".

CLUB 1943

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- 3 July Dr. Kurt Pflueger: "Der Teufel".
- 10 July Dr. Stanley Jacobs: "Poland today".
- 17 July Mrs. Margaret Reizenstein: "Franz Reizenstein, The Man and his Music".
- 24 July Dr. Max Adler: "Die Rolle der Sprache in der Gesellschaft".
- 31 July Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Teddy" — The Mayor of Jerusalem".
- 7 Aug. Mrs. Adele Reifenberg-Rosenbaum: "Was Kuenstler ueber Kunst denken".
- 14 Aug. Mrs. Hanne Norbert liest aus: "Wiener Dichtungen um die Jahrhundertwende".
- 21 Aug. Mitgliederversammlung.
- 28 Aug. Bank Holiday.
- 4 Sept. Dr. E. Kessel-Ruhemann: "Malta" (with coloured slides).

NEWS FROM THE EAST

ATTACKS ON ROSTROPOVICH

Mstislav Rostropovich, the Soviet cellist and conductor, and his wife, the singer, Galina Vishnevskaja, were strongly attacked by the official Soviet press for their contacts with Israel, such as a visit to Golda Meir during a tour of Israel in 1975. The cellist has issued a statement in which he says that at the time he had been sent on a tour of Israel as a Soviet artist by the Ministry of Culture, and Golda Meir had decorated him with the Masada memorial medal in the presence of the Soviet Ambassador. Another thing he is accused of, is a meeting with "a notorious Western Zionist, Leonard Bernstein", in the United States. The cellist retorted that Mr. Bernstein is well known in the West and in the Soviet Union, not as a Zionist, but as a pianist, an outstanding composer and brilliant conductor, and one of the greatest musicians in the United States. The Russian news agency, Tass, also said that Rostropovich had bought a house in London for £175,000. The cellist replied that he did not know the location of this house, and therefore he and his wife were staying with friends at 4 Holland Park Avenue, London, W.11. This is the address of the impresario, Mr. Victor Hochhauser.

POLAND BLOCKS FAMILY VISITS

During the 1968 antisemitic campaign in Poland, more than 2,000 Jewish families were expelled and settled in Sweden. Since then, many have been back to visit relatives, but recently a number of them were stopped at the Polish border or a Polish port, in spite of the Polish-Swedish agreement allowing the citizens of one country to visit the other without visas. The immigrants are by now naturalised Swedish citizens. The Swedish Prime Minister, Mr. Falldin, raised the matter during his recent official visit to Poland. On that occasion, he also paid tribute to the victims of Nazism at Auschwitz.

APPEAL FOR IMPRISONED PSYCHIATRIST

At a Geneva press conference, the Swiss Society of Psychiatry and Dr. Low-Beer, chairman of the British Medical and Scientific Committee for Soviet Jewry, appealed to the Soviet Government for the release of Dr. Semyon Gluzman, a Jewish psychiatrist sentenced to seven years' jail and three years' exile in Siberia for diagnosing the dissident Major-General Pyotr Grigorenko as mentally healthy. All participants of the press conference, including the leading Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget, an honorary member of Moscow university, sent a message to Dr. Gluzman in Camp No 36 in Perm, Siberia. Similar appeals have been issued in the United States, in Canada and Australia, and also by the Swiss branch of Amnesty International.

JEWISH-MOSLEM HANDSHAKE IN CATHEDRAL

Israel's Ambassador to New Zealand shook hands with the Egyptian Ambassador before a service at the Anglican Cathedral in Wellington to pray for peace in the Middle East. It was opened by the Dean of Wellington, first in Arabic, then in Hebrew, and finally in English. Representatives of other Christian denominations took part, and a member of Wellington's Arab community read from the Koran in Arabic and English, whilst a rabbi read a prayer in Hebrew.

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AWARDS AND HONOURS

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Former refugees have special reason to congratulate Miss Joan Stiebel, Secretary of the Central British Fund, on the award of an MBE to her. She started her communal work as the private secretary to the late Otto M. Schiff and was one of the principal officials at Bloomsbury House, when between the November 1938 pogroms and the outbreak of war tens of thousands of German and Austrian Jews clamoured for admission to this country. She also effectively took charge of the refugees after their arrival. The need for relief to persecuted Jews persisted after the end of the war. By spreading the message of current new tasks of the CBF, Joan Stiebel became one of the most popular spokesmen to the CBF committee members in London and in the provinces. She is also one of the leading representatives of Anglo-Jewish relief organisations at European and international conferences. Last, but not least, it is to a large extent due to her initiative that the senior executives of Jewish communal organisations in Britain formed a special group which strengthens the personal contact between them and serves as a platform for an exchange of information and views on topical common problems. By her widespread experience and, above all, her personal cordiality, Joan Stiebel has acquired the affection of all those who work with her in one field or another. We extend our sincerest congratulations to her on the well deserved recognition of her signal services and are looking forward to many more years of constructive and amicable co-operation.

The Birthday Honours List also includes a knighthood to Hans Leo Kornberg, Sir William Dunn, Professor of Chemistry, University of Cambridge; Professor Kornberg was born in Herford in 1928. The pianist Louis Kentner, born in Karwin (Austrian-Silesia), was awarded a CBE.

PLAQUE FOR EMIL SPEYER

The name of the late Emil John Speyer was inscribed on the Wall of Life at the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus Campus. The wall plaque which bears the names of major donors to the university, was unveiled by his widow, Mrs. Peta Speyer. Mr. Speyer, a banker by profession, was a founder member of the AJR, and until his death a member of its board. He was a lifelong Zionist who gave large sums to a number of Jewish and Zionist causes, but his main contribution belonged to the Hebrew University.

RARE HONOUR FOR REFUGEE COUPLE

Dr. Julius and Mrs. Helen K. Weil, two outstanding social workers who emigrated from Munich to the United States in 1937, were among the 18 senior citizens admitted to the Hall of Fame of the State of Ohio. The award was accompanied by a document stating that it was made for leadership, initiative in creative innovations and contributions to the welfare of humanity as a whole. Since 1969, Dr. Weil has been president of the Cornelia Schnurmann Foundation, a modern settlement for the elderly on the outskirts of Cleveland, Ohio. Cornelia Schnurmann was a wealthy refugee from Karlsruhe whose foundation was set up to benefit Jews and non-Jews alike, but the inhabitants of the settlement are mostly Jewish. Previously Dr. and Mrs. Weil had been directing the Montefiore Old Age Home in Cleveland which owed much to their knowledge of modern social trends. Another award was given to Professor Dr. Albert B. Sabin, Cincinnati/Rehovoth, who discovered one of the two most successful anti-polio vaccines.—E.G.L.

PAUL-EHRlich PRIZE FOR CANCER RESEARCHER

Cracow-born Professor Ludwik Gross, New York, who has been living in the United States since 1940, received the 1978 Paul-Ehrlich Prize in the historic Paulskirche in Frankfurt. He has worked in cancer research for nearly thirty years at the Paris Pasteur Institute, in Cincinnati, and since 1946 in a major hospital in the Bronx, and has received many international awards. The Paul-Ehrlich Prize and the Ludwig Darmstädter Prize are the highest awards given to medical scientists in the Federal Republic. They are reserved for scientists working in Paul Ehrlich's field of experimental chemotherapy, clinical bacteriology, study of immunity and cancer. The Prize was established in 1929 and since its re-establishment in 1952 has been awarded every two years. Since 1960 it has been financed by the Federal Government, and the Federal President is honorary president of the foundation. DM 50,000 are given to the scientist to be honoured, another DM 50,000 are made available to young researchers nominated by him.—E.G.L.

IN MEMORY OF ANNE FRANK

In recognition of his courageous attitude under the Nazi occupation, when at risk to himself, he hid in his house in Amsterdam, Anne Frank, her family and four other Jews (until they were discovered by the Gestapo in summer 1944), Victor Kugler was awarded the \$10,000 Roger E. Joseph Prize of the Hebrew College/Jewish Institute in New York. Kugler was the business partner of Anne Frank's father who now, 89 years old, lives in Basle. He was deported to a labour camp but escaped and went underground. Since 1955 Kugler, who is now 75 years old, has lived in Toronto. It was the first presentation of the Roger E. Joseph Prize. E.G.L.

HERBERT SULZBACH ON BBC

On May 25, Mr. Herbert Sulzbach was interviewed in the "Jack de Manio Precisely" weekly feature broadcast. A German Jew, who had fought on the German side during the First World War and, as a refugee, joined the British army during the Second World War, Sulzbach has incessantly worked for Anglo-German understanding. In the interview he stated that when the reports on the deportation and extermination of the European Jews reached this country, many people did not believe them and regarded them as atrocity stories. The German Embassy in London, he said, was often asked by English youngsters for Hitler pictures and other insignia of the Nazi period. Requests of this kind were dealt with by supplying the enquirers with material on the real face of the Third Reich and its crimes and referring them to English standard works on this subject.

Mr. Sulzbach expressed his firm view that the new German Federal Republic was going to stay and that the strengthening of Anglo-German relations was one of the foundations of a United Europe.

"AWE-INSPIRING WORK" OF REFUGEE SCIENTISTS

In his Brodetsky Memorial Lecture at Leeds University, Lord Goodman said the Jewish population was less than one per cent of the population of Britain, but it had made an immense contribution to British culture. Of the 400 members of the Royal Society, 50, a very high proportion, were Jews. Jewish scientists from Germany who had come to Britain as refugees, had more than repaid their debt to this country. Lord Goodman referred to the "awe-inspiring work" of these scientists, particularly in the field of biochemistry which was outstanding compared with the small contribution to literature, music and the visual arts.

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OBITUARY

ARMIN T. WEGNER

The German author, Armin T. Wegner, who died in Rome, aged 91, was one of those Germans in public life who from the very beginning refused to come to terms with the Nazis. On April 11, 1933, he said in a letter to Hitler: "The Jews have survived their enslavement in Egypt, exile in Babylon, persecution during the crusades, the Spanish Inquisition and 1,600 pogroms in Russia. They will also survive the present peril, but for many years to come, Germany will be despised and ostracised for what it is doing to them now." On account of this letter, Wegner was imprisoned in the notorious Columbia House in Berlin and later in the Oranienburg concentration camp. After his release in 1934 he went to Denmark to join his first wife, the authoress Lola Landau and their children. Yet notwithstanding the danger, the family returned to Germany, where Wegner was arrested anew because he had pleaded for the release of a Jew whom he had met in the concentration camp. Eventually, together with his wife and their daughter, he escaped via Israel to Italy, where he ultimately settled, whereas his wife went back to Israel.

Wegner had done war service during the First World War in Turkey and witnessed the deportation and extermination of the Armenians. He lodged violent protests against these atrocities both during the war and, afterwards, in an Open Letter to U.S. President Wilson. His works, which include travelogues about Soviet Russia and Palestine, are now largely forgotten in Germany. He spent his years in Italy with his second wife, Irene Kowaliska, who was also of Jewish origin and who maintained the family by a ceramics workshop. Both visited Israel twice, where Wegner was awarded a certificate by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous, and also planted a tree in the Avenue of the Righteous in Jerusalem.

DR. RUDOLF A. BRIGHT

Dr. Rudolf Bright died on June 2 at the age of 77. He spent his formative years as a member of the K.C. fraternity and became a lawyer in Breslau. Later he was appointed "Syndicus" of the Lower Silesian District of the Jewish Central-Verein. In this capacity, he showed much courage as spokesman of the Jewish community when the Nazis were in power. During the November, 1938 pogroms he was taken to the Buchenwald concentration camp. After his release, he and his wife, together with their five-year-old daughter, got admission to this country. Bravely adjusting themselves to the changed circumstances, they worked as a married couple and did not mind the unaccustomed, heavy duties involved. Later, after his discharge from the British internment, Rudolf Bright took a job as a van driver in Gloucester but ultimately found a clerical position with the Gloucester County Council. Notwithstanding his strenuous daily work, he had the energy to take special courses as the result of which he became a certified secretary and accountant. He worked in this field until, in 1957, he became legal adviser of URO. He held this position until 1971, when he retired. During these 14 years, he was not only the trusted adviser to his clients, who owe the settlement of their claims to him, but also became a good friend of his fellow workers. He will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him, and we extend our sincerest sympathy to his wife, Erna, his daughter, Marianne, and his family.

DR. GUNTER KAMM

Dr. Gunter Kamm, director of the New York Office of URO, died on April 29, at the age of 72. He was a lawyer in Beuthen from 1931 to 1937 and, after having been a prisoner of Buchenwald in the course of the November, 1938, pogroms, fled to Shanghai. He went to the United States in 1947, where he resumed his legal activities, first as adviser and, later, as director, of the URO office. During the past 30 years his outstanding gifts as a lawyer and his detailed knowledge of the complicated legislation and jurisdiction in the field of restitution and related subjects made him not only a trusted and successful representative of the victims but also a widely recognised authority to lawyers who worked in this sphere. He also contributed important articles on current restitution problems to the "Aufbau" and, for many years, was editor of the Restitution column of that periodical.

DR. GOTTHARD GUDER

Dr. Gotthard Guder, who died on April 27 at the age of 67 after a protracted illness served the German Department of the University of Glasgow with great distinction for nearly 30 years, until he retired as Senior Lecturer in 1975. A whole generation of students will remember him with deep affection not only as a gifted scholar and inspiring teacher but also as a man of warm humanity, compassion and understanding who was wholly devoted to their needs and interests. Keenly interested in the arts, he was widely known and highly esteemed in his adopted city of Glasgow. He contributed a wide range of articles to literary periodicals, particularly on German literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Prominent among his writings was his sensitive and perceptive study "Else Lasker-Schüler: Deutung ihrer Lyrik" (Siegen, 1966), which brought him wide acclaim, not least from Jewish quarters (reviewed in this journal, November, 1967).

All whose good fortune it was to know him will feel a keen sense of personal loss at his parting.

Dr. W.G.

DR. JOSEPH ROSENWASSER

Dr. Joseph Rosenwasser, who died suddenly at the age of 69, was an expert in Hebrew bibliography and paleography. He was born in Poland and studied in Frankfurt, Berlin and Wuerzburg. From 1934 to 1939 he was lecturer in Biblical Exegesis and Rabbis at the Rabbinical Lehranstalt in Frankfurt. He came to England as a refugee and after the war taught for twelve years under the auspices of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. In 1959 he was appointed assistant keeper in the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books in the library of the British Museum (now the British Library), a post from which he retired last year. Through his wide and deep knowledge of Hebrew bibliography he was able to help scholars from many parts of the world.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

THE HOLOCAUST FILM

There have been many criticisms of the Holocaust film which was recently shown on American TV, achieved a new record in the number of viewers, and has been acquired by TV stations all over the world. (The BBC will show it at the end of the year.) It has now been established that two SS officers have contributed documents against payment. One of them acted as consultant, whereas the other sold the producers an amateur film he made of a mass execution of Jews. When an American periodical drew attention to this fact, the producers stated that they had disliked the idea of employing two of Hitler's henchmen, but that they had overcome their misgivings in the interest of documentary truthfulness.

COUNSEL TO BE PROSECUTED

The Public Prosecutor in Düsseldorf has started proceedings against the Mannheim lawyer Ludwig Bock who resigned from the defence team in the Maidanek trial after Israeli witnesses had said that he had tried to extract statements from them pretending to be an anti-Nazi journalist. The Bar Council of Germany is also investigating the case.

The North-Rhine Westfalia Government has been asked in the Land Parliament by Hans Jürgen Büssow, a Socialist deputy, to prevent a situation where in a major trial victims are showered with accusations and defendants are represented as victims. He also asked the government to provide greater publicity for the trial, the last of the major court cases before the Statute of Limitation makes further prosecutions of guilty people impossible.

ULLSTEIN JOURNALIST REMEMBERED

The beautifully laid out catalogue of the exhibition "Berliner Skulpturen von Schadow bis heute", held in the Charlottenburg Castle, is dedicated to the memory of Hans Wallenberg. This journalist and author, who had been associated with the Ullstein Publishing House, was one of the main initiators of the exhibition. He died a year ago.

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 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Feibusch.—Adolph Feibusch, Westcliff-on-Sea (Rogasen/Koenigsberg) celebrated his 90th birthday on June 25.

Hofheimer.—Loving thoughts and best wishes to our dear Mother and Oma, Mrs. E. Hofheimer, for her 70th birthday on July 15.

Mounteney.—On July 7 Mrs. Meta Mounteney, of 18 Canfield Gardens, London, N.W.6, will celebrate her 90th birthday.

Vogel.—Mrs. Helene Vogel (née Kosses) of Morris Feinmann House, Spath Road, West Didsbury, Manchester 20, celebrated her 90th birthday on June 20.

Deaths

Auerbach.—On June 16, after a long illness, Mrs. Mina Auerbach, aged 91, wife of the late Dr. Siegfried Auerbach, beloved mother of Marianne, devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. Sadly missed by all who knew her.

Bright.—Dr. Rudolf Alexander Bright died on June 2. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife, children and grandchildren.

Bruck.—Herbert Bruck passed away suddenly on June 16, deeply mourned by his wife Ruth, relatives and friends. 29 Russell Gardens, London, N.W.11.

Engel.—Mrs. Alice Engel (née Isaac), of 20 Kenneth Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex, passed away on May 29. Deeply mourned by her daughters, sons-in-law and six grandchildren.

Guttmann.—Gertrude (Tutti) Guttmann, mother of Marion Casson and H. Peter Guttmann, passed away in Guatemala City on June 24, aged 88.

Meyer.—Martin Meyer, formerly of Berlin, died suddenly on May 15, aged 71. Loved and missed by his wife, Grete, and son, Stephen.—15 Queen's Drive, Bristol 7.

Miller.—Mrs. Marianne Miller, widow of David (Otto) Miller, formerly Vienna, passed away on May 17 in Morris Feinmann House, Manchester. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her brother Erich, his wife Charlotte and niece Vivien Grossmann, 106 Ashford Court, Ashford Road, London, N.W.2.

Singer.—Hermann Singer, of 28 Twyford Road, West Harrow, passed away suddenly on April 28. Deeply mourned by his wife, son, Terry, daughter, Catherine, family and friends.

DESECRATION OF BELSEN MEMORIAL

Fifty metres of wall-space at the Belsen memorial were recently found to have been daubed with Nazi symbols in red colour, swastikas and Nazi slogans. A special edition of the neo-Nazi "Völkische Beobachter", celebrating the Führer's 89th birthday, was found nearby. In Celle, which is not far from Belsen, a private house was similarly daubed. Two windows were smashed by a stone wrapped in Nazi posters. A cemetery of Russian soldiers in Hörsten near Celle was also desecrated. Slogans reading "Out with the Jews" and "SA is on the march" were daubed on tombstones. The Minister of the Interior of Lower Saxony expressed his disgust at these "abominable crimes".

MARTIN BUBER EXHIBITION IN WORMS

The German Council of Christians and Jews is preparing a great Martin Buber Exhibition in Worms where Buber often stayed. Most of the material to be exhibited comes from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, whose vice-president, Professor of Medicine Dr Michael Schlesinger, was born in Worms. The town has the oldest and largest Jewish cemetery in Europe, and its synagogue and the ghetto in the centre of the town have been partly rebuilt. The total cost of the exhibition will be about £35,000 of which Land Rheinland Pfalz has provided £13,000. The prime minister, Dr. Vogel, has agreed to act as patron.

CONFERENCE ON ANTISEMITISM

Under the heading "Antisemitism—the economic, political and religious roots of the hostility against the Jews" was the subject of a conference held under the auspices of the Katholische Akademie Hamburg. The speakers included, among others, Professor Reinhard Ruerup (Berlin), Dr. Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich (Basle), and Professor Dr. Erika Weinzierl (Salzburg).

HEINRICH STAHL PRIZE FOR UNSUNG HEROINE

The Berlin Jewish Community commemorated the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising by an impressive meeting which was attended by representatives of the protecting powers and of foreign embassies and by leading personalities of the Berlin administration and the Churches. Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Jewish community, said the process of German-Jewish reconciliation had been started during the Nazi régime by German men and women who risked their own lives in order to save the lives of Jews. They should serve as models for a young generation who complained that there was nobody left to look up to. One such "unsung heroine" was Frau Else Blochwitz who had hidden a number of Jews in her home and had provided them with food. She had also written and distributed leaflets in order to inform her fellow-citizens about the crimes of their rulers. In recognition of her services she had already been honoured by Land Berlin and by the State of Israel who awarded her the "Medal of the Just". The Jewish community now added to these awards the Heinrich Stahl Prize, named after the man who led the Berlin community during the days of terror. Frau Bloch had acted in the spirit which animated the martyrs of the Warsaw Ghetto. Frau Bloch replied that she accepted the honour for all those who retained their human dignity in those inhuman days. As far as she was concerned, she had only done her obvious duty.

REBUILDING OF BERLIN SYNAGOGUE

The Old Synagogue in East Berlin, built in 1714 and closed down by the Nazis, but practically undamaged, will be renovated and reopened for services. The East Berlin municipality is helping to finance the work which will eventually cost some £65,000. Some 400 of the Jews in East Germany live in East Berlin, the others in seven other towns, including Leipzig, Dresden and Magdeburg. There are synagogues or prayer rooms in all of them.

In Memoriam

Seelig.—In loving memory to my mother, Mrs. F. Seelig (née Huennerberg), born in Mannheim in 1904, who died on July 13, 1977, after a long illness. Hans Seelig, 27 Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

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Personal Enquiries

Kirsche.—Dr. Wolfgang Kirsche, born 1920 in Naumburg/Saale; pupil of Domgymnasium there. Family assumed to be connected with family Salamander/Bodensee. Emigrated to England end of 1930 or later. Wanted by friends in East Berlin. Reply to Box 734.

WHO KNOWS former retrainees from Merksplas near Antwerp/Belgium? Please reply to Helmut Schleifenbaum, Herzogstr. 12, 4018 Langenfeld (Western Germany).

Miss Steffi Goodman (formerly Guttman) of 147 Covington Road, Philadelphia, Pa. 19120, U.S.A., is looking for Marion Pese, Maja Kluger & Eva Heymann, formerly Berlin.

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EXHIBITIONS

SOMERSET HOUSE AND HAMPSTEAD

Georg Eisler, the Austrian artist shown last month at the Margaret Fisher Gallery, 2 Lambolde Road, NW3, was born in Vienna in 1928 and brought to England in 1936. He returned to Vienna in 1946. He was President of the Wiener Secession from 1968-1973 and had a big exhibition at the Albertina in 1976. In 1960, his work was exhibited by the Arts Council in London and in 1968 at the Grosvenor Gallery; it is most interesting, especially his graphic work is quite outstanding.

During a visit to the Hampstead Arts Council's Open Exhibition, 1978, I came across two lovely oils by our friend Adele Reifenberg, one entitled Kitchen Still Life and the other Houses at St. Cruz. Unfortunately this beautifully arranged exhibition closed on June 4.

In the "Fine Rooms" at Somerset House there was last month an exhibition of One Hundred Years of Romanian Art to mark the visit to Britain of President Ceausescu. What a pleasure to see five sculptures by Brancusi, two beautiful oils by Josef Iser and also two oils by Max Herman Maxy who studied under Arthur Segal and had a one-man exhibition in Der Sturm Gallery in Berlin in 1923. Mention must also be made of Victor Brauner who spent most of his working life in Paris, where the National Museum of Modern Art held a large retrospective exhibition of his work in 1972.

Alice Schwab

GERARD HOFFNUNG

Berlin-born Gerard Hoffnung, the cartoonist, died in September, 1959, aged 34. Since then, for nearly twenty years, his works, his cartoons, and the records of his unique musical festivals have remained in demand all over the world, and his widow, Annetta, has been asked to talk about his life and hold exhibitions of his work in many countries, including Israel. Major exhibitions at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, in Sydney and Canada will be held in the near future. The exhibition which is at present shown at the Arts Centre of the Institute of Education in Bedford Way, London, is one that

has never been seen before and that should be of particular interest to our readers. It is called "From Childhood to Maturity" and most of the sketches shown, date from his youth in Germany. His mother, herself a gifted pianist, collected them, and from the very beginnings, they reveal the twin gifts which dominated his life: music and drawing. All the German fairy tales came alive in them, as do his shrewdly observed musicians and his talent for illustrating puns like the "Posaunenengel". The exhibition continues until July 20.

M.P.

VANESSA REDGRAVE'S ACTIVITIES

Vanessa Redgrave, the Left-wing actress, has collected 73 signatures for a motion to be put before the general meeting of British Equity, the actors union, which demands sanctions on Israel for trying to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organisation by its attack on South Lebanon. The motion demands a ban on the sale of all taped and filmed material and on all tours to Israel. The Council is asked to instruct all members working in Israel to terminate their contracts, and others to refuse offers of work there. Many leading actors have declared their intention to vote against the motion. The actor Denis Quilley said he was not a Zionist, but he would vote against this "appalling proposal." Equity should not be used to propagate irrelevant political views. The Jewish actress, Miriam Karlin, an Equity council member said: "If Vanessa really meant what she said, she would not allow her films to be shown in Rhodesia and South Africa."

Action by German Film Producer

In a recent interview with a reporter from the "Spiegel" magazine, Vanessa Redgrave said that she welcomed the bus attack on the Tel Aviv-Haifa Road earlier this year, because it had been a military rather than a terrorist action. The German film producer Arthur Brauner, who happened to have driven along that road in Israel only a few minutes before the attack, has stated that he wants to sue her

for that statement. Incitement to mass murder, he said, was a criminal offence in Germany, and he trusted it would be the same in Britain. He would do everything possible to bring Vanessa Redgrave to justice as, having seen the corpses of the victims, mainly women and children, he felt he should not condone such inhuman behaviour on her part.

DUTCH HONOUR FOR PAULA LINDBERG

The singer Paula Lindberg, to whom we paid tribute in our December 1977 issue on the occasion of her 80th birthday, was made by Queen Juliana of the Netherlands a "Ridder in de Oranje-Nassau". In the laudatio, the Mayor of Amsterdam, Wim Polak, described Paula Lindberg as a knowledgeable and, at the same time, warm-hearted personality, endowed with a sense of humour. The award to her was particularly remarkable as she is not a Dutch citizen by birth but by naturalisation. The event was also marked by a celebration in the Synagogue of the Amsterdam Liberal Community, whose member she has been for a long time. As in previous years, Paula Lindberg will again hold courses in the International Summer Academy of the "Mozarteum" in Salzburg.

E.G.L.

ALEXANDER KIPNIS

Alexander Kipnis, well remembered by the elder generation for his beautiful baritone voice and his impressive gift of performing, died in May in Westport, Conn. (U.S.A.) at the age of 87. During the 'twenties and early 'thirties he was a member of the Berlin State Opera. After the Nazis had come to power, he repeatedly gave Lieder recitals under the auspices of the Jewish Kulturbund; his last performance took place as late as autumn 1938. From 1940 until about 1952 he was a member of the ensemble of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Later he worked as a tutor at the Juillard Music School of that city. On the occasion of his 80th birthday (1971) the Bayerische Rundfunk arranged an impressive broadcast with excerpts from his favourite opera roles and Brahms songs. Kipnis was born in Schitomir (Ukraine).—E.G.L.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

San Francisco. A Golden and Silver Jubilee for Kurt Herbert Adler, General Director of the San Francisco Opera House. The Vienna-born musician and conductor started his career 50 years ago in Austria, Germany and Italy and became assistant to Toscanini in 1936. After a spell in Czechoslovakia he went to the United States, conducted in Chicago for five years and then moved to San Francisco where he became artistic head and later General Director. San Francisco opera now celebrates 25 years under his inspiring leadership, perhaps a record for any opera house. One of the most active musicians in the States, Kurt Herbert Adler has received many awards for outstanding service to music, ranging from the Great Medal of Honour (Austria) and the Federal German Cross of Merit to the Bolshoi Theatre Medal and the Honorary doctorate of Music awarded to him by San Francisco University.

Israel. Last month the Vienna "Burgtheater" visited Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, performing Goethe's "Iphigenie" with Elisabeth Orth (eldest Wessely-Hörbiger daughter) playing the lead.

Berlin. A telerecording of the Schlosspark-theater's performance of Pinter's "Niemand's Land" (No Man's Land) was transmitted on German TV with Martin Held and Bernhard Minetti in the Gielgud/Ralph Richardson parts.

Tit-Bits. "Furcht und Elend des Dritten Reiches", a sequence of dramatic scenes by Brecht, was revived at the Munich "Residenz" with Ursula Linggen in a leading part; the cast list of the new Dürrenmatt film "Der Richter und sein Henker" (directed by Maximilian Schell) includes the legendary Lil Dagover.

Birthdays. 70th birthday honours for Hans Weigel, Austrian author, critic and Molière-translator; also for Hamburg-born Peter Luhr, character actor, now a member of Munich's "Kammerspiele".

Obituary. The Austrian press reports with regret the passing of Gusti Pichler, former Prima Ballerina of the Vienna State Opera; she was in her seventies. S.B.

Letters to the Editor

REFUGEE INDUSTRIES

From Lord Schon, D.C.L.

Sir,—Your May, 1978, issue carried a review by Margot Pottlitzer of Herbert Loeb's valuable thesis of refugee industries in the Special Areas of the North of England, 1937-61. In the penultimate paragraph of the review there is a reference to my own name. May I correct the statement which appears.

My father, Dr. Frederick Schon, tragically died in a concentration camp in 1943. He never came to this country and had no connection with Marchon Products Limited which was founded in 1939 by Mr. Frederick Marzillier and myself. After the war, when circumstances made it possible to develop Marchon Products Limited (of which I was chairman and chief executive) as a major chemical manufacturing unit in Whitehaven, Cumbria, we developed within the framework of one of our subsidiaries, Solway Chemicals Limited, cement and sulphuric acid manufacture based on locally mined anhydrite. Both companies are now part of the Albright & Wilson Group.

(Lord) SCHON

Spaniards Field, Wildwood Rise,
London NW11 6SY.

Sir,—May I add a brief footnote to the obituary notices on the late Lord Selwyn-Lloyd?

It was he who, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced in the Finance Bill 1961, in response to a plea submitted by the Association of Jewish Refugees and several Members of Parliament, a clause exempting from U.K. tax the compensation annuities paid under German Federal Compensation Law to victims of Nazi persecution. The exemption was to be effective from the commencement of these payments in 1953 and was passed unanimously by Parliament. Mr. Selwyn-Lloyd and his Financial Secretary, Sir Edward Boyle (later Lord Boyle) thus showed a very sympathetic and compassionate understanding for the position of the refugees where their predecessors, over a period of years, had refused to make this signal concession.

(Dr.) FRANK E. FALK

32 Vivian Way,
London, N2 0HZ.

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, 1918-1938

Sir,—For a book on Austrian academic life before 1938, I am looking for information on the rise of Nazism and antisemitic violence among Viennese students and the Jewish students' response to it. Any of your readers who have letters, documents, photographs, etc, from this period in their possession or could supply me with personal reminiscences should kindly get in touch with me. The material will be returned if requested.

(Prof.) JOHN HAAG

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