

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weltsch, Jerusalem

ISRAEL, AMERICA AND BRITAIN

On these Pesach Holydays when, as ever, Israel is inundated with tourists of all kinds and, to the eye of the spectator at least, life is going on in full splendour and hilarity, a deep uneasiness is felt in many sections of the population, the foreboding of an approaching crisis, owing to the rapidly changing conditions in world politics and the appearance of new forces like the Islamic awakening on the global scene. While Israel is faced with an apparent deadlock in the peace negotiations, it is now admitted that the so-called Palestinian question is the stumbling block, but this should be no cause for surprise: the problem has always been paramount, although many Zionists preferred to ignore it. Furthermore, original Zionist thinking, as reflected in the views of its protagonists like Herzl, Weizmann, Achad Ha'am and others, was based on the thesis that for its realisation Zionism needs the consent of world opinion—in the 19th century embodied in the so-called European Concert—and the practical assistance of at least one Great Power. It is no wonder that, after the establishment of the State of Israel in a part of Palestine and in the circumstances of the outgoing 20th century, such a connection is still felt to be indispensable, but in the meantime Israel as the victor in four wars and as an occupying power has lost much of the former sympathies and is to all intent and purpose dependent for its very existence on the United States, both politically and financially. All eyes are now directed to Washington, at a time when the United States itself is in a state of ferment and reconsidering its global position.

Anyhow, the United States has replaced Great Britain as the principal supporter of the Zionist cause which Britain had been from the times of the First World War onwards. It is no wonder that many observers in Israel are now pondering the question whether America, forced by unavoidable circumstances, will have to act like Britain which, at the end of the mandate was regarded as the principal enemy by indoctrinated Israelis. As recently as 1978, Peter Calvocoressi, a Chatham House man, could write in his survey of the British post World War experience¹:

"In the Middle East, there was suspicion and conflict between the allies over the special British position in the oilfields of Iran and over American oil politics in Saudi Arabia; so long as the USA regarded Britain's Middle Eastern positions as essentially imperialistic, there was small hope of wholehearted co-operation, while the American emotional commitment to Israel and comparatively small dependence on Arab oil gave it a different order of priorities which was only modified and shifted towards British policies after British withdrawals (Egypt, Cyprus, Aden), renewed bouts of Israeli expansion, and evidence from the Arab side of a readiness to turn to the USSR, to combine against and even to win battles against Israel and to use the oil weapon against the rest of the world." (p. 218)

In another survey of Post-War Britain's Political History², the two British authors, dismissing the Labour Party Conference resolution of 1944 ("Let the Arabs be encouraged to move out as the Jews move in", etc.) as "blatant nonsense" and praising Bevin's striving for an "honourable compromise", proceed to describe the conflict between Britain and America after the Report of the Anglo-American inquiry of 1945 as follows:

"Truman publicly endorsed its recommendation to issue an extra 100,000 visas to Jews, but to the frustration of the British Government refused to commit himself to the accompanying conditions . . . (he) acted as if only America had sympathy for Jewish refugees while, at the same time, he refused to help to enforce a solution in Palestine or even allow more Jews to enter the US . . ." (pp. 62/63)

All historians and observers of the situation which arose in 1947/48 agree that the way in which Britain left Palestine in chaos was not to the credit of the mandatory power; but then, only very few were aware of the fact that the hour had arrived for the complete dissolution of the Empire which for a hundred years had been the pride of the British nation and the astonishment of the world. Nobody believed that it could disappear. The fact remains that for more than three decades of this century, a fateful connection existed between the British Empire and the Jewish people, which had more than mere opportunist roots, and actually left a latent psychological heritage.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

An urgent plea

With the March 1980 issue of our journal, you will have received a letter, containing an enrolment form, concerning AJR membership. Although the response has been good, the letter has caused some misunderstanding among some of our members who unfortunately read the letter before the message from the Chairman on the front page. The letter was intended for you—our existing member—to address and pass on to a friend or acquaintance who might well be persuaded to support our work by becoming an AJR member.

The recruitment of new members is vital if we are to sustain the Association's work. A further letter/enrolment form is therefore enclosed with this issue; please pass it on to someone who you know will be sympathetic to our work.

In the tense days of the Balfour Declaration there was a Jewish inclination to exaggerate the dimension of this relationship. True, Heinrich Heine had loathed England and admired Napoleon, but Theodor Herzl had put his hope on Britain when in 1900 he convened the fourth Zionist Congress in London. Was not England the land of Liberty, the home of non-conformism? In 1903 Herzl negotiated with Joseph Chamberlain for a shelter in a British colony for Russian Jews threatened by pogroms. The men who, like Lloyd George, stood at the cradle of the Balfour Declaration, were brought up with an intimate knowledge of the Jewish Bible and impressed by the Biblical prophecies of Israel's resurrection. This does not say that they were "philosemites" in a vulgar sense. Englishmen were always conscious of the distance between human beings of different origin but this did not degenerate into rude antisemitism. How strong these feelings of distance were, can be seen even in the first volume of Virginia Woolf's *Diary*³ just published as a Penguin book, at the very beginning (January 5, 1915), she bluntly writes: "I do not like the Jewish voice, I do not like the Jewish laugh . . ." She was, of course, married to the Jew Leonard Woolf, but she also disliked the "foreign accent" of the Woolf family, and says so. One may suppose that some British statesmen personally dislike Jews, but, in the age of Hitler, to call them "antisemites", as has often been done during political conflicts, e.g. with Ernest Bevin, evokes completely misleading associations.

The Empire, India and the Middle East

There is also the supreme and unique case of Benjamin Disraeli who must be regarded as one of the fathers of the benevolent Imperial idea as it developed in the 19th century. Disraeli was not only, and perhaps not even primarily, a statesman; he was a romantic, a writer of colourful and thoughtful novels, with oriental leanings, a man of letters. The phenomenon of Empire seemed to surpass reality, it was born out of the world of literature and of fairy-tales, conceived by a poet: its visible peak was the festival to honour Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The British then "were in possession of the largest Empire ever known to history . . . beneath the Queen's dominion lay a quarter of the earth's land surface, and nearly a quarter of its people . . . The public taste was for things theatrical. Statesmen and generals were actors themselves, and here was the brassiest show on earth . . ."

This is the impression that James Morris gives in his grandiose epic about the rise and fall of the Empire whose last volume, "Farewell The Trumpets", appeared in 1978 and was published in Penguin together with the two earlier preparatory volumes.⁴ This is a work of great literary charm, with innumerable poetic quotations, from most eminent lyrics to popular music hall songs, ingeniously interspersed in the narrative, so demonstrating the role which the imperial idea occupied in the actual life and emotions of the whole nation. The author who in this third volume reveals herself as female—now signing Jan Morris instead of James—is overwhelmed by an "aesthetic view of Empire", and although she knows that it has not

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Israel, America and Britain

always been a pleasant kind of beauty and concludes that "it was time the Empire went", she says so with "affectionate melancholy". Her work shows a stupendous knowledge of facts and anecdotes with full details, written also with humanity, with wit and critical irony, often in a satirical light reminiscent of Offenbach, or—to remain within the English sphere—of Gilbert and Sullivan. The rise and fall of the Empire, here presented in almost theatrical terms, is a historical drama of marvellous dimensions, but in our own context we must confine ourselves to the specific aspect of its collision with Jewish history.

High Way to India

The centre-piece of Victoria's Empire in the 19th century had always been India; the main worry of Britain's rulers was the securing of the lines of communication between the motherland and its principal dominions. This included the land mass of what is now called the Middle East, and the main maritime stations on the way (Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Suez, Aden, Indian Ocean). When in World War One the Ottoman empire crumbled, Britain stood by as the main claimant for this long coveted heritage. One of the first passages on the way eastwards was Palestine which Allenby entered in 1917, shortly after Britain had issued the Balfour Declaration. Thus started the Jewish connection with the reality and the interests of the Empire, but also the smouldering conflict. The Foreign Offices of all countries involved in the area were primarily concerned with the Arab and Moslem world which was regarded as the decisive factor in the sphere between the Mediterranean and the Indian subcontinent; this applied also to Great Britain and the United States, as proved by many documents and incidents. Thus arose a conflict between the idealistic individuals fascinated by the vision to be standard bearers of Jewish resurrection in the Holy Land and the authorities and realistic officials watching over the Imperial interests. The Zionists became aware of the problem as early as 1920 by the clashes in Palestine leading to the Churchill White Paper of 1922 where one of the most enthusiastic non-Jewish adherents of the Zionist idea laid down a clear restriction on Jewish expectations in the country. The Zionist Executive, left with no choice, accepted his interpretation, but it did not make an effort to include the Arab reality into its planning and its activities or even heed it in its ideology, until in 1936, at the time of the Peel Commission, the scheme of partition (to be followed, according to its promoters, by co-operation between the two new communities or states) seemed to make a solution possible. It was a time when—during the period of Hitler's growing and unanswered arrogance—the clouds of impending world war changed all political considerations. Britain believed that only the White Paper of May 1939 which drastically restricted immigration could provide security for her armies in the Middle East in case of war.

Characteristically, the chapter in Morris's book, which deals with what the Imperialists regarded as the necessity to include the Middle East in the sphere of British influence, is entitled "The Anglo-Arabs". It tells the story of the First-World-War Arab Bureau in Cairo and its leading personalities, of Lawrence of Arabia and the Hashemite connections (of which in 1980 only King Hussein of Jordan remains). What Britain needed, Balfour said at that time, was "supreme economic and political control, to be exercised . . . in friendly and unostentatious co-operation with the Arabs . . ." (p. 265). The Arabs, however, developed a nationalism "of an intensity unknown to the imperialists elsewhere".

The author omits to say that this nationalism was to a great extent generated by British education and encouraged in 1918 by the stirring declarations of President Woodrow Wilson and the new Russian leaders in favour of self-determination for all nations. In any case, it was a force to be reckoned with and—a fact which Zionist ideologues minimised or recognised too late—it was a force to which Britain ultimately had to yield.

Retreat and Chaos

In Palestine—so begins chapter 25 "The Last Retreat"—the British imperialists for the first time "frankly abandoned the imperial responsibilities, and there the last retreat began". The author does not palliate these humiliating events but impressively describes the whole misery of Jerusalem's last days of British rule or rather non-rule, nor does she spare the Jewish terrorists. Looking back on New Jerusalem, she refers to the westernised British-educated Arab, "constituting the most highly skilled and widely cultured élite of the Arab world" and also to the cultural activities of "Jewish refugees from Berlin and Vienna with their Viennese cafés, the Philharmonic Orchestra and the intellectual tea-parties behind the Hebrew University". The members of these two communities "were not natural enemies: they had much in common and were much alike: it had been the highest ambition of the British to bring them together, fuse them into a governing class and so bring their government of Palestine to an honourable conclusion".

However, this was not to happen. On the contrary, "the barbed wire and armoured cars of Palestine were duplicated across the world, as successive colonies flared into revolt. . . . The same passions, the same ironies, the same waste, sometimes the same poetry, always the identical conclusion. . . ." Yet, "the British were spared, by their own common sense or lack of will, any such terrible conflicts as the French fought in Indo-China or Algeria . . .".

We all know the history of the 30 years since 1948 and, first of all, the responsibility which the United States had to accept as the now dominant power in the Middle East. For Israel it was a *via dolorosa*, but also of military glory in four or five wars. With partition in force, the Israelis established their state, the Palestinians are still struggling for theirs. Thanks to President Sadat's bold initiative, Israel has achieved the precarious unfinished peace treaty with the biggest Arab state. Yet Israelis watching the shifting power relations are anxiously asking themselves: Will oil-thirsty America, *mutatis mutandis*, in the end have to go a similar way as imperial Britain did? That question is the main worry that hovers over Israel at this season of grave world political confusion, which is also the overture to America's Presidential elections. Israel is not a decisive factor of global events. But many Israelis believe that the country should avoid all steps—anyhow costly and, in the end, probably ineffective—which may aggravate the Middle East situation, and exacerbate the relations with the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories and with the Arab world at large. This controversial point, however, lies outside today's back-looking Seder reflections.

¹ Peter Calvocoressi: *The British Experience 1945-1975*. Penguin Books 1979 (Pelican). 261 pp. £1.25.

² Alan Sked and Chris Cook: *Post-war Britain. A Political History*. Penguin Books 1979. 394 pp. £1.95.

³ *Volume 1: 1915-1919*, introduced by Quentin Bell, edited by Anne Olivier Bell, Penguin Books 1979. 356 pp. £1.95.

⁴ James Morris: *The Pax Britannica Trilogy*. Vol. 1: *Heaven's Command. An Imperial Progress* (1973). Penguin Books 1979. 554 pp. £1.95; Vol. 2: *The Climax of an Empire* (1968). Penguin 1979. 544 pp. £1.95; Vol. 3: *Farewell the Trumpets. An Imperial Retreat* (1978). Penguin 1979. 576 pp. £1.95.

EFFECTS OF PEACE

When the Israeli Embassy in Cairo was formally opened, several dozen elderly members of the community, many of them weeping, were among the crowd of several hundred spectators. In a nearby hostel, Palestinian women students started a session of high-pitched mourning wailing, but were silenced by Egyptian security men. In a special session, the Egyptian Parliament rescinded the Boycott laws against Israel. Since the Boycott of Israel-connected goods was introduced, Egypt had played a leading role in their enforcement. At the request of British MP Mr. Greville Janner, President Sadat allowed a small group of Alexandria Jews to visit their relatives in Israel from whom they had been separated for many years.

Israel's 32nd Independence Day coin commemorates the peace treaty. There will be a gold and a silver coin bearing a three-language inscription "Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty March 26, 1979". The reverse shows a stylised "Shalom" intertwined with an olive branch. The new coins will be in Israeli Pounds (5,000 and 200 respectively) and not in shekels. They are minted in Berne and Ottawa.

When he returned from talks about normalisation of relations in Egypt, Mr. Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, said the problems were being resolved one by one, and President Sadat had advanced the date of normalisation by several months. As a by-product, a thriving smuggling racket is being operated across the border in northern Sinai. Just before a large area was returned to Egypt, Israeli police found 45 mainly new Mercedes cars dug into the sand dunes. They suspect that another 100 cars had been shifted by thieves to Cairo and Alexandria for sale as taxis. Canned beer is also being smuggled into Egypt. After seizing one consignment, a senior Israeli customs officer said neither his men nor the police had the manpower to stop the smuggling.

Following an agreement between the Monarch Airlines and Cosmos, Travel the World, and Venus Travel, there will be daily charter flights from Luton and Manchester to Tel Aviv and Elat, starting next October.

Starting in May, a number of UK tour operators will make use of El Al's Tel Aviv-Cairo service in holiday packages combining Israel and Egypt. The Egyptians have set up a special airline, named "Lotus" to operate the twice-weekly service between Cairo and Tel Aviv, because the national airline Egyptair feared boycott from Arab countries if it flew to Israel.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Sir Sigmund Sternberg was presented with the "Brotherhood Award" at a reception at the New York headquarters of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Members of the civil rights leadership, the clergy and of President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust were present. Sir Sigmund, the first British citizen to receive the award, is taking a leading part in the project to establish the Whitehall Holocaust memorial.

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR MARTYRS

Sunday, April 20

This year's Commemoration Meeting for the Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Jewish Martyrs of Nazism will be held on Sunday, April 20, at 3 p.m. at the Cambridge Theatre, Earlam Street, W.C.2. The main speaker will be the Right Hon. Peter Shore.

As readers know, the AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations and members of the AJR and their friends are urgently requested to attend the function, which throughout the years has been a most appropriate and dignified way of paying tribute to our nearest ones. For reserved seats, orders (with stamped and addressed envelope) should be sent to: The Secretary, AJEX, 5A East Bank, London N16 5RT.

HOME NEWS

BRITAIN AND THE PLO

Addressing the 18th anniversary luncheon of the pro-Arab Middle East Association in London, Mr. Douglas Hurd, Foreign Office Minister of State for Middle East Affairs, said that "Britain's commitment to Israel's right to exist—although not to be an occupying power—is a fundamental part of our policy which will not change". He added, however, that the key to peace was co-existence and there was no doubt that the PLO would have to become involved in the peace process. The PLO should accept a negotiated settlement and accept at the same time Israel's right to live in peace, and Israel should accept the Palestinians' political rights and find a way to accommodate them. Relations between the West and the Arab world must not be poisoned indefinitely by the Israeli-Arab problem. In the Middle East as elsewhere "trade becomes entangled with politics, and the larger the prize, the more political the considerations which decide to whom it is given. We may lament the fact, but we would be foolish if we did not act on it". Saudi Arabia was now Britain's largest customer after Western Europe and the US. British policy required a new relationship between the Western Powers and Islam. The Zionist Federation protested against Mr. Hurd's speech which it called an "ill-timed and unfortunate" departure from government policy.

In a letter to the Zionist Federation, Mr. Hurd said that the Government's policy towards Israel had not changed, but in the long run, it would be unrealistic to ignore the PLO, which many Palestinian Arabs viewed as the voice of their aspirations, though it sometimes resorted to intimidation to achieve that position. It would, however, have to modify its policies, before it could be accepted as a party to a peace settlement.

NEW AMBASSADOR FOR ISRAEL

Fifty-five-year-old Mr. John Robinson, a seasoned diplomat with 31 years of service in the Foreign Office, has been appointed Britain's new ambassador to Israel. He was a member of the negotiating team of Britain's entry into the Common Market, Ambassador to Algeria, and Minister at Washington during the past few years. His wife is Swiss, and he is easy-going, a good mixer and a good speaker. His predecessor, Sir John Mason, said in a press interview that despite "aspects of foreign policy on which we do not agree, relations between the two countries are excellent". He added that there was no country where it was easier to make personal and political contacts than Israel, but public manners were terrible. "One can be pushed and pummeled about in a supermarket with such rudeness that it's difficult to believe." During his term of office, Sir John and his wife insisted in keeping a strictly kosher home. This, he said, saved him from having to ask guests whether they only ate kosher food. He could eat shrimps, if he wanted to, at the home of Israeli friends.

SADAT SENDS OLDEST HEBREW BIBLE

When Mr. Greville Janner, MP, president of the Board of Deputies, visited President Sadat recently, the president agreed to send the oldest Hebrew Bible in existence to London to be restored, exhibited, and then returned. According to Mr. Janner, the Bible is at present kept in a Cairo synagogue and "falling apart". It is supposed to have been written by a scholar, Joseph ben Asher, at the beginning of the 9th century and contains 560 gazelle-skin pages, some of which have become discoloured and stuck together.

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DEATH CAMP MONEY IN SALEROOMS

A collection of concentration camp money, including notes issued at Dachau, Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Theresienstadt, has been bought by Stanley Gibbons. It includes one-Reichsmark Auschwitz notes, printed in 1944 and estimated at £875 each. The notes are part of a World War II collection which is thought to be the best of its kind and also includes "Yellow Star" badges. Stanley Gibbons bought it for £20,000 from Mr. Derek Brown of Scunthorpe, Humberside. Other items are occupation and liberation notes, anti-Nazi propaganda notes, and German occupation notes overprinted by the Polish Resistance Force during the 1945 Warsaw uprising.

The collection also includes the so-called "Quittungen" from Theresienstadt and Litzmannstadt which were handed out on receipt of the money people had taken with them and which were used as currency inside the camps. The Theresienstadt ones, signed by the "Chief Elder" Jakob Edelstein, depicted Moses with the Ten Commandments and were commonly called "Moses Crowns". The Litzmannstadt money showed a Magen David and a Menora. Auschwitz notes are priced at £875, Dachau ones between £250 and £600. The Yellow Star is for sale at £95.

IRISH PARTY BACKS PALESTINIANS

Fianna Fail, Ireland's ruling party, passed a resolution calling for recognition of the legal rights of the Palestinians and their rights for a homeland. Dr. Hazel Boland, a leading Irish Zionist and vice-chairman of her local Fianna Fail branch, addressed the 7,000 delegates at the conference opposing the motion, but was not allowed to put down an amendment.

COMMANDOS FOR ISRAEL

A party of 50 war-time British commandos visited Israel for the first time in 40 years to meet former Jewish comrades-in-arms. They were guests of the Israeli Army for part of their visit and spent a day with men of the Entebbe commando unit. The visit was the idea of Zevi Swete of Tel Aviv who lost both legs during the fighting in Italy during the war. On a visit to Britain he was feted in a pub by old comrades from the war-time elite No. 2 Commando and persuaded them to forget "that Palestinian nonsense" and visit Israel to see what had been done over the past 30 years. Mr. Zevi, who runs a café and a petrol station at Neviot in Sinai, had then been a guest of the British Friends of the Israeli War Disabled. Subsequently many commandos joined the organisation. Two of the visitors to Israel, who were blinded in battle, were accompanied by their wives.

BRITISH ORCHESTRA FOR ISRAEL

After the cancellation of their trip to Russia in protest against the arrest of Andrei Sakharov and the invasion of Afghanistan, the English Chamber Orchestra, one of Britain's finest ensembles, decided to give a number of concerts in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Beersheba, Haifa, and a northern kibbutz. The tour is supported by the British Council which had sponsored the original tour to Russia. Six of the 38 members of the orchestra are Jews, but the decision about the trip was taken unanimously by the whole orchestra.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Moslems and Christians at Synagogue

The first of three inter-faith meetings, held at the St. John's Wood Liberal Synagogue, was attended by a number of Moslems and Christians. The meeting dealt with different forms of worship in the three religions, and the speakers were Rabbi David Goldberg, Egyptian-born Sheik Gamal Solaiman, the Imam of the Regents Park Mosque, and the Rev. John Miller of the St. John's Wood United Reform Church. Mr. David Spanier, diplomatic editor of "The Times", presided. One absorbing topic was, how each faith viewed the others. The Imam said that Moslems accepted both Judaism and Christianity as "People of the Book" and Moses as well as Jesus as prophets. Mr. Miller said Christians had changed their attitude since the Crusades and anti-Jewish pogroms of the Middle Ages and today regarded other faiths with charity, love and respect.

Return of "Fiddler on the Roof"

At the Wimbledon Theatre, the Musical Theatre Company revived the musical "Fiddler on the Roof" which has set out on an 18-week tour. Well-known actor Alfred Marks plays Tevye the milkman. This is the first musical ever to go on tour without support from public funds. Eighty-five "angels"—investors in theatre shows—gave amounts between £500 and £5,000 to back the show. In exchange, each received a ticket for the first performance and took part in a champagne party afterwards. They have also first call on any surplus after the £20,000 a week running costs are paid. If the show is a success and is transferred to the West End, they may even have a chance of big profits.

Holocaust Plaque in Synagogue

The Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits dedicated a holocaust plaque in the entrance hall of the St. John's Wood Synagogue. It was designed by sculptor Mr. Fred Kormis, a member of the congregation who has also created the Prisoner of War Memorial in Gladstone Park, London. The Chief Rabbi expressed the hope that similar memorials would adorn all Jewish houses of worship, community centres and educational establishments so that future generations would remain aware of Nazi atrocities. Mr. Kormis had dreamed for 30 years of creating a memorial to the millions of Jews "now wearing the crown of martyrdom where they once wore the crown of Torah".

Jewish Guests in Dockyard

Members of the Chatham Jewish community attended the recommissioning of the nuclear submarine Valiant in Chatham Dockyard as guests of the Deputy Engineer Officer, Lt. Jack Rose, who with his wife and baby daughter had been a member during the refit period. The Jewish guests who also included Forces Chaplain Malcolm Weisman, were entertained with kosher food prepared by Lt. and Mrs. Rose. Lt. Rose is also a qualified naval cook.

A "Messianic Jew"

Jewish disc jockey Phil Sharp has joined the "Invisible Church", a missionary group, but claims he found Jesus before he joined the Church, and feels more at home in a church than in a synagogue. Calling himself a "Messianic Jew", he wears a cross encased in a Star of David. He formerly belonged to the Edgware Reform Synagogue choir.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

US Rejoins ILO

In 1977, the United States left the Geneva International Labour Organisation in protest against its granting observer status to the PLO, and its domination by European and Third World Communists. It has now rejoined the organisation convinced, according to a statement, that it had "changed its hostile attitude towards Israel".

Charges Against Israel Refuted

In its annual human rights report, the State Department has rejected accusations that Israel systematically tortures Arab prisoners during interrogation, adding: "The Israeli authorities have repeatedly stressed that such practices are forbidden by Israeli law and that violators are punished." Last year's report had said it had appeared that "instances of mistreatment have occurred".

Hidden Nazis in America

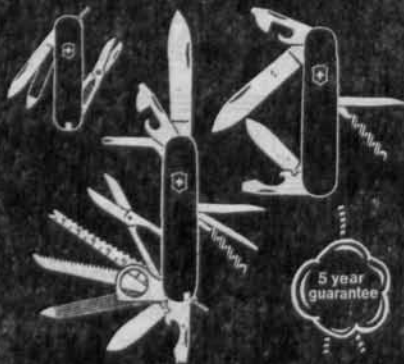
The American Department of Justice has stated that it has still to deal with the cases of about 260 immigrants, alleged not to have revealed their implication in Nazi crimes, when they applied for residence. These cases are to be dealt with before the end of the year. Those found guilty will have to stand trial, but where no sufficient evidence can be produced, the cases will be dismissed. The investigations started in 1977, when congresswoman Elisabeth Holtzman raised the matter in Congress. At the time a special commission with 20 lawyers and 15 investigators was set up, and 35-year-old attorney Martin Mendelsohn was asked to co-ordinate their findings. A few weeks ago he was suddenly removed from office. Jewish circles strongly protested, alleging that Mendelsohn was removed because he established that many of the investigated had worked for the CIA, the FBI and the military authorities, and had been brought to the US by them. It was therefore unlikely that these people would have to stand trial.

"The Muses Fled from Hitler's Germany"

At the end of a number of celebrations of Albert Einstein's 100th anniversary, the Washington Smithsonian Institute, a combined museum and research centre of world importance, arranged for a series of public lectures and exhibitions to demonstrate the contribution refugees from Hitler's Germany and occupied countries had made to the cultural life of America and the world. They extended far beyond the many scholarly and scientific fields enriched by refugees and included the arts, music and literature. A public discussion under the title "The Muses flee from Hitler" enabled the audience to question eminent specialists on such questions as "Acculturation and Influence of Refugees", "The Transfer of Cultures" and similar subjects. The Rockefeller Foundation and the Joseph H. Hazen Foundation paid for the enterprise.

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Garbo Helped the Jews

Sir William Stephenson, the Canadian director of allied war-time intelligence, has revealed to friends that during the last war, Greta Garbo was a key member of a "remarkable army of amateur espionage agents" which included besides her Noel Coward, David Niven, Vera Lynn, and Sir Alexander Korda whose links with British intelligence have been previously documented. Garbo is said to have gone to Stockholm and been instrumental in organising the rescue fleet of small boats which snatched the Jews in Denmark from the Nazis on the eve of deportation and brought them to sanctuary in Sweden.

CANADA

A Survey of Soviet Immigrants

Sponsored by the Canadian Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, Dr. Roberta Markus, a Russian-speaking scientist, has completed a study of Soviet Jewish immigrant children in Toronto. She interviewed 107 young people between 12 and 20 and their parents, teachers and friends. The majority of them came from urban centres like Moscow, Leningrad, Odessa, and Kiev. Whilst the parents felt that being Jewish had limited their own and their children's professional and economic opportunities in the Soviet Union, most of the children said they had not been consulted, and if they had been, they would have preferred to stay. They had thought that Soviet antisemitism was only directed against Israel and the capitalist West, not against them. They considered themselves Russian, were proud of it and uninterested in their Jewish background. Most of them refused to attend Canadian Jewish schools, and did not form friendships with Canadian Jewish children.

Refugee Rabbi Honoured

The Toronto Hillel Foundation has set up a student scholarship fund in the name of Professor Emil Fackenheim who, since last October, has headed the philosophy department at Toronto University. At least one scholarship will be available for students reading Jewish studies and studying in Israel. Professor Fackenheim, known as a philosopher and theologian of the Holocaust, is 63. He was ordained a rabbi in Berlin in 1939, went to Canada during the war and has been at Toronto University since 1948.

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"AMNESTY" ON JEWS OF ARGENTINA

In a letter to the Press Mr. Cosmas Desmond, Director of "Amnesty International", has revealed that they had published findings on Argentina after interviewing two men who had escaped after spending 15 months in secret detention camps. They had stated that Jews were singled out for particularly brutal treatment, and systematically tortured. Some of them were made to kneel in front of pictures of Hitler and Mussolini, and the staff had said that the only good Jew was a dead Jew.

BRAZIL WARNS PLO

Mr. Guerreiro, the Brazilian Foreign Minister, has warned the Arab League Office and the PLO representative in Brasilia, the capital, that Brazilian law forbids offending the heads of foreign countries and that foreign diplomats who infringe this law would be expelled. The PLO representative Farid Sawan had distributed an offensive pamphlet about the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Begin, among students.

OLYMPIC SQUABBLE IN AUSTRALIA

The official Australian travel agency for the Olympic Games is Jetset Tours, owned by Mr. Isi Leibler, the president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. In a TV interview, he said he had been appointed by the Australian Olympic Federation, not by the Russians, and Jewish Charities would be hit if Australia boycotted the games. He had accepted the agency after consulting Jewish experts and the Israeli Government and promised that all profits would be used for a major Jewish cause.

In a subsequent interview Mr. Leibler said he had been misrepresented, but all profits from the sale of tickets would be placed in an audited trust account and used for major Jewish institutions. This trust had no relevance to Jewish policy with regard to the Olympics. Mr. Leibler has for a long time campaigned for the rights of Soviet Jews and the amelioration of their plight.

NAZI CLERGYMAN SACKED IN ST. GALLEN

At an extraordinary meeting of the evangelical congregation of St. Gallen-Straubenzell in Switzerland, 1,072 members voted for the immediate dismissal of 47-year-old minister Gerd Zikeli, a German national from Sudetenland who had been acting as a minister in Switzerland since 1968 and had founded the neo-Nazi organisation NBS (National Basis Switzerland). Only 39 votes opposed the motion.

YAD VASHEM MEDAL FOR AUSTRIAN ACTRESS

The Yad Vashem Medal was presented to 77-year-old blind actress Dorothea Neff in Vienna in the presence of President Kirschschräger and Chancellor Dr. Kreisky. During the whole of World War II, she hid a Jewish costume designer, Mrs. Alice Wolf, in her home.



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IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF EDITH ROSENZWEIG

Edith Rosenzweig Scheinmann died on November 15, 1979, in her 84th year of life—almost 50 years after the death of Franz Rosenzweig, her first husband.

Born and raised in Berlin, in a house where Jewish tradition and ritual were still observed, the granddaughter of a rabbi, she intended to become a religious teacher and was open to Rosenzweig's thoughts and hopes when she first met him in 1913, the fateful year of his *teshuvah*.

Six years later in 1920, after the war, his *magnum opus* "The Star of Redemption" completed, and feeling ready to pass "the Gate into Life", Rosenzweig returned and asked Edith to marry him and to build with him the Jewish home he longed for. As an expression of this union in purpose and in love, his first translation from the Hebrew, "Der Tischdank", was published under the imprint of both Franz and Edith Rosenzweig.

Hopes and plans were shattered soon. Of the short nine years of this marriage almost eight long years were filled with the torment and suffering from the languishing illness which rendered Rosenzweig physically totally paralysed but left him mentally alert to the very end.

These were years of trial for both, of unimaginable hardship, sustained with the most unusual courage and devotion and strength of character. The loving and beloved young wife, who was still to bear him their first and only child—the son Raphael—was transformed from her husband's partner into—literally—a part of him ("One with me" as he had predicted in one of his early letters to her). She became his hands and his voice, the guardian of his days and nights, and the instrument of most functions of his helpless body.

The picture, so often described, of the serenity emanating from and surrounding Franz Rosenzweig in his illness, can be appreciated fully only if one sees in it also the presence of the ever composed and ever compassionate, calm and pained, and yet gracefully smiling woman of rare beauty; always at his side, caring for every need, and reading, with unusual perception, from his lips and face or from the feeble motions of his fingers, letters, syllables and words which formed sentences and thoughts, spoken through her mouth.

These years formed the personality which later impressed many as that of a cold and unemotional, proud and strong-willed woman, hard to approach

and to befriend. Yet, hidden behind this shell were warm and sympathetic feelings, were the ability and the need for love and care, for understanding and giving, for sharing and receiving—known only to the small group of old friends and to her family.

Her last 50 years were full of the troubles and worries of our times: the Hitler years, the separation from her son, who went to Israel long before her, her own emigration, manifold disappointments, the loss of all her property including Franz Rosenzweig's library and most manuscripts, the need to support herself, which she did with the skills she had acquired at his sickbed, and years of loneliness. Then followed the years of relative contentment, comfort and companionship at the side of her second husband, a former attorney and high government official, Max Scheinmann, with whom she returned to Germany. This period of caring and being cared for, however, ended again with the task of supporting the dying.

Uppermost throughout these years, however, were her desires and labours, was her devotion to save and to preserve the heritage of Franz Rosenzweig. Material had to be retrieved and collected, actually bought and brought back again, and the painstaking work of editing unpublished letters and diaries and other writings was begun as well as the arduous and frustrating search for a publisher. In this undertaking she found increasing help from Raphael and her daughter-in-law Rachel. Through this work she became also the gathering point of a slowly growing circle of people aware of Franz Rosenzweig's teaching and philosophy, Jews and Christians from all over the world, whose inquiries she answered, to whom she gave information and with some of whom she established co-operation and friendship.

All this was done with great determination, it had become the content of her life, but also with great modesty and humility; seldom permitting herself to appear in public. Only in the very last months of her life, when she felt her work done and her end approaching, when the efforts for the publication of "Franz Rosenzweig, Gesammelte Schriften; Der Mensch und sein Werk" (Haag, Martinus Nijhoff, 1979) had been crowned by success, she consented to a television interview in which she spoke about the nine years which were the highlights of and gave the direction to her tragic life.

Perhaps it is correct to say that these very last years, in which she relived the past in the peaceful surroundings of her last home in Baden-Baden were her happiest. Not only did they bring some sense of fulfilment for a work well done, but they brought also the satisfaction of ever closer bonds with her son and his family and the joy of being a grandmother and great-grandmother to five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

At her grave-side Proverbs 31, 10-31 were read: "Many daughters have done virtuously, But thou excellest them all." (29)

Martin Goldner, Palo Alto, USA.

RABBI DR. H. SANGER

Rabbi Dr. Hermann M. Sanger, a founder of Liberal Judaism in Australia, who served for 37 years as chief minister of Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne, has died, aged 70. His funeral was attended by 2,000 people, and in a message of tribute, the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, referred to his substantial place in the history of his time. He was born in Berlin, the seventh generation of his family to be a rabbi. His ancestors had officiated in Breslau, Bingen, Bad Mergentheim and other places in Southern Germany. He studied at various German and European universities and at the Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary. He was inducted into his first office on April 1, 1933, the Boycott Sabbath. He held office in Berlin until 1936, when his call to Melbourne caused a sensation. He founded the first Liberal congregation in Sydney and in Perth, and his Melbourne congregation grew from 60 members in 1936 to a city-wide union of three congregations attended by 5,000 worshippers on High Holy-days. In 1962 he was appointed OBE and received an honorary doctorate from the Cincinnati Hebrew Union College. For many years, he was vice-president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. When he resigned in 1974, he said in his farewell sermon that he had seen his two main tasks in fostering the spread of Liberal Judaism over the whole continent of Australia and New Zealand and in helping refugees from Nazi oppression to integrate into life in Australia.

E.G.L.

DR. ALFRED BRAUNTHAL

Dr. Alfred Braunthal, the labour economist and leading trade unionist, died in Boston at the age of 82. A brother of Julius Braunthal, the late Secretary-General of the Socialist International, he was born in Vienna and, after the end of the Second World War, went to Germany where he was on the editorial staff of the *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. In 1929, he became a member of the jointly sponsored Social Democratic Party and the Union Research Institute. He wrote several books and numerous articles on German politics and economics. In 1933, he emigrated to Belgium and, three years later, to the United States. There he became research director of the Hatters and Millinery Workers Union. He returned to Europe in 1950 and was appointed assistant research secretary-general of the International Confederation in Brussels. He retired to Boston in 1968.

GEORGE HOELLERING

The chairman and managing director of the London Academy Theatre, George Hoellering who has just died, aged 82, came to this country in 1936 after a film career in Berlin. He played an important part in the development of the serious cinema in England and, for many years, in showing French and other foreign films which would otherwise have been inaccessible. He also made a number of films which have become classics, such as his 1935 Hungarian film "Hortobagy" and T. S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" which won prizes at film festivals.

SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN

News has just reached us of the death of Professor Sir Ludwig Guttman at the age of 80. A tribute to Sir Ludwig, a member and supporter of the AJR for many years, known all over the world as founder of the Stoke Mandeville Centre for Spinal Injuries, will be published in our May issue.

LEGACY

Miss Alice Hohenstein left a legacy of £4,880 to the AJR Charitable Trust.



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THE AJR IN THE EIGHTIES

A Constructive Board Meeting

The strength of the AJR and the need to continue and expand its vital activities became evident anew at the Board meeting held on February 17.

In his introductory remarks, the Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx, paid tribute to the memory of Mr. E. Sonnenberg, Dr. J. Loeb and Dr. Adelheid Levy who have died since the last Board meeting. He also welcomed the new Board members, Rabbi C. Cassell, Mr. M. Casson and Mrs. H. Ury.

In a statement of policy, the Chairman dealt with a number of changes and new plans. During the past year the AJR, the AJR Charitable Trust and Self Aid of Refugees had been integrated, working under a common chairman and treasurer and a common administration. This had resulted in a more effective handling of our business and also in a better use of our funds. Turning to the work for the aged, especially in the Homes, jointly administered with the C.B.F./World Jewish Relief, the Chairman stressed that the conditions would gradually become more difficult. Future entrants would no longer belong to the generation which qualifies for German and Austrian pensions; the building and maintenance costs would rise; the Local Authorities had become more restrictive in subsidising applicants with insufficient means. Furthermore, the friends who had hitherto performed the service of looking after our old people were themselves ageing and needed to be replaced with equally dedicated, younger people. The speaker also referred to the newly established Membership Committee, whose first decision had been implemented in the membership appeal to be published in the March issue of AJR Information. Whilst a change of name of the organisation seemed inadvisable, it was realised that many members and prospective members, especially of the younger generation, did no longer consider themselves as refugees; therefore, in announcements and printed material, stress would be laid on the widely known initials "AJR" rather than on the full name of the organisation.

The Chairman reminded the Board that next year the AJR would celebrate its 40th anniversary. Hardly anybody would have foreseen in 1941 that we would be going strong after all this time. Many in our midst had made their mark and had been successful in our new country. This should be added reason for being proud of our origin.

The detailed and thought provoking address of the Chairman was followed by a report, given by the Director of the AJR, Dr. W. Rosenstock. He first dealt with the antecedents and contents of the recently published *White Paper on Immigration*. The AJR had been in close contact in this matter with the Board of Deputies and associated itself with the joint statement of the Board and the Chief Rabbi, expressing "deep concern of the British Jewish community at the proposed discrimination between men and women and between those born in this country and other citizens of the United Kingdom—a discrimination not previously made". The variety of problems in the

field of immigration would have to be seen in the wider context of an envisaged new Nationality Act, necessitated by the changes in the British Commonwealth since the enactment of the Nationality Act of 1948. So far, no detailed plans for a new law had been presented, but the AJR was closely watching the situation.

Turning to *AJR Information*, the speaker pointed out that the occasional delay of delivery was entirely due to the present shortcomings of the postal services. A breakdown of the costs showed that the expenses for each copy (including 15p for postage and despatch, 25p printing charges, plus fees and overhead expenses) amounted to 58p per issue or £7.00 p.a. Under these circumstances the question might be justified whether the AJR should use a very substantial part of its income for the production of our Monthly, leaving fewer funds for the fulfilment of its other tasks, especially in the field of welfare work. On the other hand, the importance of our paper is reflected in constant messages of appreciation. Only recently, the recipient of a New Year Honours award wrote in answer to our letter of congratulation:

"I want to take the opportunity to pay a sincere tribute both to the AJR and to your splendid monthly bulletin. I belong to that generation which came to this country at a very early stage before the war, and through enforced temporary separation from my family I was quickly plunged into a completely local British milieu. As a result, any feeling of identification with other refugees, or with the fate of those remaining on the Continent, was for a time at a very low level. The awakening of this feeling of identification is largely due to the fact that I have been a regular reader of *AJR Information* for a number of years now. It is by any standard a first-class publication".

Some recent issues of *AJR Information* had carried a comparatively high proportion of news items, leaving space for only two or three articles. The speaker asked the Board members (and this question is also addressed to our members in general—the Ed.), whether more stress should be laid on articles or on news.

Dr. Rosenstock also referred to the pending consideration of a global payment of 440 million DM by the German Federal Republic to the Claims Conference and the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany as the so-called "Abschlussgeste Wiedergutmachung". So far, the supplementary 1980 budget which was to include the payment, had not yet been put before Parliament, and the terms of reference governing the use of the payment had not yet been laid down. The Council of Jews from Germany, which is a member organisation of the Claims Conference and which represents the AJR and its affiliates in other countries, was actively watching the situation with the view to obtaining a share in the payment for the welfare work of its member organisations.

In conclusion, Dr. Rosenstock reported that the office frequently received enquiries in questions of social insurance and taxation. Though the pursuance of individual cases was the task of the professional experts, some questions were of a more general character and in such instances the office had the benefit of voluntary information given by our Board member, Dr. J. J. Halpern, and our Vice-Chairman, Dr. F. E. Falk, to whom special thanks were due for their help.

Essential Tasks

Mrs. S. Taussig, General Secretary of the AJR and Secretary of Self Aid, reported that in 1979 the two organisations had jointly 400 consultations on such widely differing subjects as accommodation and drug taking and performing the essential task of giving constant support to lonely and often unstable persons. The *Social Services Department* had also been successful in filling demands—often emergencies—for Home Helps for the sick or disabled and other employment such as clerical and dressmaking.

The work of the *Meals-on-Wheels Service* under the guidance of Mrs. R. Anderman became increasingly important. There was an urgent need for more volunteer drivers and also for an assistant organiser who can support Mrs. Anderman.

The co-operation with the CBF/World Jewish Relief in the running of the Homes had become particularly amicable and rewarding for the staff and ipso facto for the applicants and residents. Applications and admissions to the three ordinary Homes were now fairly well in balance. In the course of the year, many old friends were saddened by the retirement of Dr. Goldscheider and Dr. Newman. Both had given devoted service since the inception of the Homes and were familiar and well loved figures in them. Their place had been taken by a group of young doctors, who worked together to give a full service to each Home with the advantage of being able to interchange, and the system was working very well.

In the last decades there had been a dramatic change in the type of Homes required. Standards had also changed and shared toilet facilities were accepted with great reluctance and as a last resort. The obvious answer was to provide flats or flatlets with a warden-caretaker in charge on the lines of Eleanor Rathbone House—the so-called sheltered

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"The Sephardims, The Marranos,
The Expulsion from Spain"

Thursday, June 5—Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld:

"Events and the Period leading up to
the Holocaust"

Tuesday, June 24—Rev. Dr. I. Levy, OBE:

"The State of Israel". "Out of Zion shall go
out the law and the word of the Lord from
Jerusalem"

The lectures commence at 8.15 p.m.

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The AJR in the Eighties (contd.)

accommodation. In addition to Eleanor Rathbone House which is jointly owned and administered with the CBF/World Jewish Relief, the AJR Charitable Trust owns Otto Hirsch House in Finchley and now houses 24 people in very good bedsit rooms there as well as in Marie Baneth House in Golders Green and in Hannah Karminski House. It would be highly essential to obtain more sheltered accommodation in flatlets and, in spite of the great difficulties in finding suitable buildings or sites and the financial problems involved, efforts were made to alleviate the present position.

Yet the most urgent need of all was the long term accommodation for the frail. People were looking for care of their aged parents and were desperate to find a happy haven for the helpless. Funds were lacking for the extension of the type of care in Osmond House (which is much more than was ever envisaged), but this gap in our service had to be filled.

In conclusion Mrs. Taussig referred to our appeal for Funds for the Boat People and to relieve the appalling starvation in Kampuchea. Mindful of their own past fate as refugees, many of our members had contributed to the existing fund but the need for support continued.

The next speaker, Dr. F. E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, gave a survey of the present position in the field of taxation and also dealt with questions of rent allowances and rate rebates. His comprehensive report is published as a separate article of this issue.

Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, Chairman of the AJR Club, first paid tribute to Dr. Adelheid Levy. As a splendid social worker and friend she was very much missed, and it was on her initiative that the Club was founded 24 years ago. As in the past, the Club had been active throughout the week, and on any Sunday there were 50 to 60 people present. Several members were now on holiday in Spain, and there had been much entertainment in the course of the year, including Mrs. Dora Segall's 75th Birthday Party, a Chanukah celebration, a slide show by Mr. P. Geiger, and an outing under the guidance of Mrs. Eva Woodman. Last year's Bring and Buy Sale had yielded £1,354.00, and funds at the disposal of the Club had been used for grants to needy members of the Club for holidays, transport, etc.

The discussion was opened by Mr. Max Kochmann. Referring to the growing financial needs, he pointed out that the present number of 3,800 members could be considerably increased because the total number of former refugees was estimated at 15,000. It was important that the question should be continuously raised in the family circle and among friends. The *next generation* should join since it was essential to continue the Jewish heritage of the Central European cultural and religious tradition. In other countries there was now a regeneration of Jewish feeling which was likely to return to this country too. For this purpose, *AJR Information* was vital in keeping this feeling alive.

Mr. L. Spiro, Treasurer of the AJR, stated that the Executive looked to its members to stimulate thought and activity. With the inflation rate at 18 per cent, more members were needed to maintain our present framework. If we could find another 2,000 members in the next year, all would be well but we would also be happy with 1,000. He hoped that the propaganda letter and brochure which were to be sent out to our members together with the March issue of *AJR Information* would ensure that our membership would top the 4,800 mark. He also reported that Dr. Lore Stein, member of the Executive and of the Membership Committee, had proposed the creation of a group of "Friends of the AJR". It was felt that this title might overcome any feelings that the younger

generation had about being refugees and would help in recruiting younger people to look after an ageing community.

Mrs. Marion Casson said that it was very difficult to interest young people unless there was something specific they could do. Similarly to the organisation "Contact", the AJR could enrol young people as drivers to take elderly people out to tea on Sunday afternoons, to quote only one example. Dr. Valerie Wills advocated a closer co-operation with other organisations. Dr. Erna Goldschmidt suggested the arrangement of a meeting between members of the elder and the younger generation where people would speak about what they were doing and where younger people could say what they wished to do. Mr. Julius Strauss made some comments on the forthcoming appeal.

In summing up the discussion, the Chairman thanked all who had come and particularly those who had spoken and from whom a number of interesting new ideas had emanated. He felt that the new decade had started well with the Board Meeting.

REPORT ON TAXATION

At the Board Meeting of the AJR on February 17, Dr. F. E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, gave the following report:

There were no major events in the sphere of taxation of the payments arising from compensation legislation in Germany and Austria but there have been certain useful clarifications and some developments regarding rents and rates rebates.

The basic tax position remains unchanged. Compensation Renten paid under the German Federal Compensation Act (BEG) are entirely exempt from British tax. Pensions which are in principle liable to tax in Germany, that is pensions paid to former public servants, including officials of German Jewish communities and organisations, and social security pensions, are liable to UK tax as to one-half of these pensions. However, entirely exempt are Social Security Invalidity Pensions (which include the Austrian "Hilfslosenzuschüsse") and pensions awarded by discretion of the German authorities to those people whose social insurance contributions were paid outside the territory of the Federal Republic or who are classed as expellees (Vertriebene) from territories annexed by the Hitler Reich, e.g. Bohemia, Moravia, certain Polish territories and Danzig. These pensions are paid normally under Paragraph 100, now Paragraph 99 of the German Angestellten-Versicherungsgesetz (AVG) or under Paragraph 1321, now 1320, of the Reichsversicherungsordnung (RVO). During the last year, the Inland Revenue also agreed that pensions of a similar character awarded under Paragraphs 18 and 19 of the WGSVG—Gesetz zur Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts in der Sozialversicherung of December 1970—are exempt from UK Income Tax. Where the Award mentions one of these legal provisions, full tax exemption should be claimed.

The reason for the exemption of these pensions is that the recipient has no right to them but that they are entirely within the discretion of the German Authority. The German law describes them as *not being Social Security payments*. The Board of Inland Revenue have therefore decided that these payments may be regarded as compensation, equivalent to the Renten paid under the Compensation Act. This is not fully understood by some people and there is a certain resentment that only those who come from what is today the East German Republic and from the other Eastern areas are entirely exempt from tax on their pensions. It will be realised, however, that the Inland Revenue, in making this ruling, has in some way extended the definition of "compensation" in order to help the Nazi victims; the Board of Inland Revenue could and would not apply this extension to pension payments which are regarded, also in Germany and Austria, as regular income to which the claimant has a right under the law. Perhaps those of our friends who are resentful of the more beneficial position of those formerly resident in the East will recall that, as regards Restitution—Rueckerstattung—the former resi-

dents of the East Zone, etc., were much worse off. They received nothing while a good measure of restitution was made to the former residents of West Germany.

When the new Conservative Government came to power, a few of our members urged us to submit a new application for full exemption of all the pensions liable now as to 50 per cent. This was very carefully considered by the Executive. It was felt, however, that this was not a party matter and that the advent of a Conservative Government was no reason to raise the matter afresh. The Finance Act 1974 which gave one-half exemption to those pensions had been adopted by all three political parties. Several attempts had been made by individual MPs since 1974 to change the law but these attempts had not been successful. The Executive felt further that the new Government, in its first period of office, was faced by an enormous number of problems and it was not an appropriate moment to come with fresh applications. The Executive will keep the matter under review in the light of all circumstances.

We were able to establish that *pensions of married women*, earned by their own contributions, are treated as their earned income with the effect that the additional allowance for a wife's earnings can be set against the taxable half of the pension, often eliminating any liability in these cases. Insofar as there is still some of the pension taxable, the first £750 qualify for the taxation at the lower rate of 25 per cent.

I referred last year to the close relations established with the Board of Inland Revenue who accept the AJR as the advisory body on all matters arising from the German payments. The officials of the Board, in turn, are most helpful and intercede with local tax districts where such intervention is required.

Rent Allowances and Rate Rebates

These are administered by local boroughs and dependent on the total income of the applicant. In the past, most boroughs included compensation Renten and social security pensions received by Nazi victims in calculating the income which often resulted in the income being too high to qualify for these reliefs. After we had some lengthy correspondence, in particular with the Department of the Environment, most boroughs have now changed their attitude on advice from that Department. The treatment varies from borough to borough but generally it may be said that compensation Renten are entirely disregarded. German and Austrian disability pensions are similarly treated. As regards other Social Security pensions granted to Nazi victims, Camden and some other boroughs disregard 25 per cent of the pension or £4.00 p.w., whichever is higher, in the calculation of the applicant's income. This is not an entirely satisfactory position but better half a loaf than none at all. All applicants for rent or rate rebate should state the nature of their German or Austrian pension so that the local authority can apply the rules on disregard of these pensions.

May I say in conclusion that, although there were no spectacular new developments, there has been some useful progress in the past year. It is gratifying to know that a very large number of refugees from Nazi persecution benefit not only from effects of German or Austrian "Wiedergutmachung", but also from the tax reliefs and other reliefs obtained for these payments.

IGNAZ MAYBAUM'S LAST BOOK

Shortly before he died in 1976, Rabbi Ignaz Maybaum finished writing his last book "Happiness outside the State." Since then, his widow, Mrs. Frances Maybaum, and a circle of friends, colleagues and former students have worked together to ensure its publication. At a reception in Leo Baeck College where he taught for many years, a distinguished gathering attended the launching and listened to the tributes paid to a beloved rabbi, teacher, and friend by the publishers (Oriental Press), representatives of the Edgware congregation and Rabbi Dr. de Lange, a former student, now Lecturer in Rabbis in the University of Cambridge. A review will appear in one of the next issues of *AJR Information*.

M.P.

THE ISRAELI SCENE

EICHMANN'S DIARY

Mr. Gideon Hauser who as Israel's Attorney-General prosecuted Eichmann, has included a diary written by Eichmann during his trial, in a revised edition of his book "Justice in Jerusalem". Eichmann had requested the publication of his diary together with the court's decision, but the Prime Minister, Mr. Ben-Gurion, ruled that it should not be published for at least 15 years (the trial took place in 1961). Eichmann maintained that, whilst he was simply obeying orders, he was internally wracked by doubts. He also revealed that he had at one time to investigate Eva Braun's ancestry and discovered that she had one thirty-second part of Jewish blood.

ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS

A senior Foreign Ministry official delivered a statement by Mr. Begin to the heads of 20 Christian denominations, assuring them that the authorities will not tolerate acts of vandalism against Church property. The police had adopted extra precautions for its protection. There has been a rash of attacks on Christian institutions by extremist Right-wing elements, believed to be linked with Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement. Intruders broke a window of a Jerusalem shop selling Bibles and Christian literature and attempted to set fire to it, but were driven away by police. Leaflets, urging war on missionaries, were distributed in parts of the city. Slogans were daubed on the walls of the Russian Orthodox Church and bookshops. The owner of a Bible shop found it daubed with black and red paint and swastikas and slogans such as "Missionary pigs go home". A number of priests have complained of being spat at and cursed by young religious Jews. Mr. Kolkik, the Mayor of Jerusalem, supported by the Ministry for Religious Affairs, urged the police to deal with the perpetrators as they would with terrorists.

THE ABSENT ARMY

Major-General Moshe Nativ of the Defence Force's manpower branch said enough young Israelis were living abroad to staff three or four

reserve Army divisions. The Army was trying to keep in contact with them so that they could be called up in the event of an emergency.

FIRST ISRAELI REFORM RABBI

Thirty-two-year-old rabbi Mordecai Rotem is the first sabra and Israeli-trained Reform rabbi and has become minister to the Haifa congregation. The World Union for Progressive Judaism held its 21st international conference, attended by more than 2,800 delegates in Jerusalem and sent a formal demand to the Minister for Religious Affairs to allow Reform rabbis to perform officially recognised marriages. Israel was said to be the only country where until now, such recognition has been refused.

A SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE

Mrs. Ruth Chomat, daughter of Mr. Ian Mikardo, MP, and vice-chairman of Haifa University, recently visited Britain to raise support for the university's "Bridging the Gap" unit, which trains people from underprivileged areas in the north of Israel to become community leaders. She said there was a need for such a unit, as Israel was in danger of being split down the middle socially because of the educational, social and economic gap between Sephardim and Ashkenazim. Sephardi Jews, more than half the total population, were unfailingly presented as illiterate and poor. Only one-sixth of university students were Sephardim.

STERN GANG LEADER DIES

After a long illness, Mr. Nathan Yelin Mor, the former leader of the Stern gang under the British mandate, died in Tel Aviv, aged 63. In the early 50s, he was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by an Israeli court for the Jerusalem murder of Count Bernadotte of Sweden, the UN mediator in the Israel-Arab war, but he was soon afterwards elected to the first Knesset and never served his sentence. He gradually changed from an ultra-nationalist into a far-left politician, visited Soviet Russia and declared his support for the PLO and an independent Palestinian state.

NURSE SWAPPED FOR TERRORISTS

A Christian nurse from Jordan, who had been held prisoner by Palestinian terrorists in Beirut for five years, was released and flown to Israel in exchange for two Arab terrorists jailed for murder and sabotage in Israel in 1968 and 1971. The nurse, Miss Amina Mufti, a Circassian, was seized by the terrorists because they believed she worked for Israeli intelligence.

BRITISH PENSIONS FROZEN

Under an agreement signed between Israel and Britain in 1956, British pensioners living in pre-1967 Israel were paid the annual cost-of-living increases. This agreement, however, does not apply to pensioners living in East Jerusalem, and two such pensioners have just lost their appeal to a Retirement Pensions Tribunal. Their pensions will permanently remain at the November 1977 level of £17.50 for a single person and £28 for a married couple. The London Department of Health and Social Security said that the only other countries in the area with which Britain had a cost-of-living agreement, were Cyprus and Turkey.

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

The 1980 Jewish Book Week at Woburn House was as successful as many previous ones since it was first started in 1949. Most important publishers exhibited books with a particular Jewish interest. The opening lecture, when AJR was one of the sponsoring organisations, brought a fascinating talk by Lord Weidenfeld about his experiences in publishing. On another occasion, Jon Kimche spoke on a rather controversial subject: "Was Britain so guilty?" Referring to some ancient scholarly works on Britain's attitude to the Jews before and during the war, he warned that it was easy to exaggerate and that, to understand what happened, one must have lived during those days. Britain's attitude in Palestine was that of a colonial power rather than a particularly anti-Jewish ones. The talk was sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Leo Back Lodge.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

PASSION PLAY BAN

The West German State Tourist Office, the West German National Railways and Lufthansa have announced that they will not publicise the Oberammergau passion play this year because, notwithstanding some amendments in the text, it is essentially anti-Jewish.

ABBA EBAN IN GERMANY

The former Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr. Abba Eban, addressed the annual conference of the West German Social Democratic Party in West Berlin, speaking for the first time in fluent German, a language he had not used in public for many years. Referring to Jerusalem, he said: "Do I have to emphasise in Berlin that the natural condition of a city is to be united, not divided?" After his address, Mr. Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, left his seat on the dais and embraced him. On his return to Israel, Mr. Eban reported to the Israel Labour Party that, despite their friendliness, the Germans he had spoken to had expressed strong opposition to the Israeli Government's policy of establishing settlements in the populated areas of the West Bank, and that the French looked unfavourably on the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

CONTENTIOUS TV DOCUMENTARY

The Südwestfunk, Baden-Baden, recently showed a documentary on the involvement of the Armed Forces in the murder of Jews. More than 4,000 viewers protested in letters, many of them anonymous, and demanded the removal of the director of the film. This is the strongest reaction to anything ever shown by the Südwestfunk. On the other hand, many former members of the Armed Forces sent in reports on executions they had witnessed.

NEW NSDAP FOUNDED

In Frankfurt, notorious Erwin Schönborn, who has served several terms of imprisonment for extreme right-wing activities, has set up a new National Socialist Party which names among its aims "political solidarity with the Islamic Revolution". Mayor Martin Berg stated in public that this was only the tip of the iceberg, and that Frankfurt threatened to become a centre of activities for members of the extreme right. They had also started a NSDAP students' club and opened bookshops selling violent Nazi literature. Since 1952, Schönborn has been instrumental in setting up more than 20 Nazi organisations. The Hesse Minister of the Interior, Mr. Gries, said that his Ministry was closely watching the development of these increasingly active organisations.

The Nationalsocialist Students' Club was also responsible for setting up a basic organisation for Turkish nationals in co-operation with the Islamic Cultural Centre in Frankfurt. Schönborn announced that "nationally conscious Turks would cooperate in the spirit of National Socialism as carriers of world revolution against capitalism and communism".

FUERTH CEMETERY DESECRATION

Two young men, now 18 and 19 years old, arrested for theft, admitted having taken part in the desecration of the Fuerth Jewish cemetery in February 1978, when 70 tombstones, part of the wall, and two memorial plaques were daubed with swastikas, runes, and "Heil Hitler" slogans. They said they had not been politically motivated, but had been bored because there was nothing interesting on TV.

SECRET ARMS DEALS WITH ARABS?

The West German Government said in a statement that it had no information about illegal arms deals by West German firms with Arab countries which had been alleged by Neil Asherson in an article in the London "Observer". The deals were said to include one between Syrian generals and the Ulm firm of Magirus-Deutz for 42,000 vehicles to be built in Syria. There was also a plan by the same firm to sell 2,000 military vehicles to Iraq and armoured cars to Libya. The firm is alleged to have manufactured the water-cannons to breach the sand walls and barriers along the Suez Canal at the beginning of the Yom Kippur War, and to have trained the Egyptians to use them.

"UNFEELING MURDERS"

A court in Hagen, Westfalia, pronounced sentences of seven and eight years' imprisonment on two former SS officers, Dutch-born Siert Bruns, 59, and August Neuhäuser, 68. As members of the security police on the Dutch-German border, they shot two Jewish brothers Sleutelberg a few days before the end of the war. Bruns had lived in Hagen under a false name until 1977, when he was exposed by Simon Wiesenthal. Neuhäuser had already served four years in Holland. The court stressed that both had unfeelingly committed a senseless murder after forcing the brothers to dig their own graves, and had brutally acted against all laws of humanity.

In Stade, former SS officer Erich Scharfetter was given 18 life sentences for murdering 18 Jews in Estonian concentration camps. Fifty witnesses in court, in the US and in Israel, had testified that in the notorious Kirkenik camp, Scharfetter had been known as the "man with the pickaxe" because he had killed Jews too enfeebled to work with a pickaxe and subsequently cut their throats.

AFTERMATH OF COLOGNE TRIAL

Only after he had been sentenced to six years' imprisonment in the Cologne trial of the Paris Nazi rulers, did Mayor Ernst Heinrichsohn resign office as Mayor of Bürgstadt in Franconia. He also resigned from the CSU Party. The party accepted his resignation with a comment that he had always acted in the interest of all citizens of Bürgstadt. Subsequently a TV team went to Bürgstadt and recorded the reactions of the citizens. The head of the local school said that in view of the many different opinions, he would tell his pupils that one simply could not judge. The vice-mayor said that even after the trial, he still regarded Heinrichsohn as a model citizen in every respect. A CSU member of Parliament said the case demonstrated the difference between Christian and Jewish thinking: "Christians always gave people a chance to start afresh. The Jews obviously expected everyone to kneel in repentance—but Christians would not do that." Together with two other high SS officers, Heinrichsohn had been tried for his share in the deportation of 50,000 Jews, including 10,000 children, from Paris.

NAZI FARM CLOSED DOWN

A large farm in Northrhine Westphalia, the Bärenbrücker Hof, owned by the Harting family for more than 900 years, has served as a training centre for neo-Nazis for many years. Many attacks on Jews and anti-Fascists originated there, but the authorities refused to interfere, until last year a Czechoslovakian TV team, accredited to West German TV, tried to investigate the farm and was violently attacked and beaten up. A TV camera, worth about £20,000, was smashed. After protests by the Czech Embassy, police closed down the farm and imposed a fine of £5,000 on the owner for allowing it to be used for other than agricultural purposes.

AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION ATTACKED

A dynamite attack on the Auschwitz Memorial Exhibition in the Esslingen Town Hall caused considerable damage. An anonymous "German Action Group" claimed responsibility saying: "Thirty-five years of anti-German propaganda are enough. Those who serve Zionism, will have to face our revenge." The Wuerttemberg Minister of the Interior deplored the action as a despicable if unsuccessful attempt to revive the criminal past, which was condemned by the entire population.

THE JEWS OF RUSSIA

Suspect Figures

According to the 1979 Soviet census figures, just published, the Jewish population in the Soviet Union has shrunk by about 350,000 between 1970 and 1979, owing to emigration and a demographic decline. In 1959, there were 2,268,000 Jews in the country, in 1970, there were 2,151,000 and in 1979 only 1,800,000 remained. These figures appear doubtful to the American Jewish Committee which estimates that there are still more than 2½ million Jews in the Soviet Union.

Attacks on World Jewish Congress

In the Minsk official daily *Zvyazda*, the prominent Soviet antisemite V. Begun attacked Dr. Nahum Goldmann, founder president of the World Jewish Congress, and Dr. Stephen Roth, London, its European executive director. Dr. Roth had demanded free discussions between Soviet Jews and Jews of other countries on questions of culture but, writes Mr. Begun, the Helsinki Agreement "does not have in mind anti-Communist, racist and subversive organisations such as the World Jewish Congress in whose name Dr. Roth speaks". Books and other educational material which the WJC wishes to send to Russia are denounced as anti-Communist. Amongst such anti-Communist works, Begun lists the "man-hating discoveries of Rabbi Yehuda Halevy"—the medieval Hebrew poet.

Hounded Scientist in Moscow

Eminent mathematicians and scientists protested against the Russians' treatment of Dr. Alexander Joffe, one of the world's leading mathematicians who has been prevented from leaving Moscow to attend international congresses and is constantly harassed by the KGB. Professor Joffe who is Jewish, was sacked from his post at Moscow University after applying for an exit permit for himself and his family. He is no longer able to publish papers or to attend university seminars. His work on "optimal control" has directly influenced the design of advanced engineering systems and the study of economics. At a mathematical colloquium at Imperial College, London, the debates were called "An appreciation of an Absent Colleague", as his work was fundamental to them.

Refuseniks in Italy

Thirty-six-year-old Mr. Pavel Palishev, a Soviet emigrant who did not want to go to Israel, hanged himself outside the Rome Russian Embassy, after failing to secure a visa for the United States. Communist members of the Italian parliament seized the opportunity to table a number of questions about Soviet Jews in Italy. There are between 5,000 and 6,000 waiting near Rome, while their applications to settle abroad are processed. Most of them stay in Italy between six and eight weeks. There have been problems about their relationship with the local population, because of competition in trade, housing and transport, but this is balanced by the economic advantages they bring, particularly during the off-season winter months.

Protest Against Sakharov Treatment

Jewish Professor Paolo Alatri, one of Italy's leading historians and a militant Communist for 30 years, resigned from the Italy-USSR Association, of which he was once the secretary-general, in protest against the internal exile of Dr. Andrei Sakharov, saying: "I cannot be a friend of those who behave as in the times of the Tsars." Professor Alatri's parents were deported and killed by the Nazis. There has been a wave of protest about the Sakharov case in Italian political, labour, and intellectual circles.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

SALUTE TO DR. CHARLES KAPRALIK

On April 24, our friend Dr. Charles Kapralik will celebrate his 85th birthday. If we put this date on record, it is not just to comply with the elementary duties of the chronicler but because it gives us the welcome opportunity of expressing to him our feelings of gratitude for his effective manifold activities in the interest of the refugee community. There have been close contacts between him and the AJR in the joint administration of the Homes by the CBF and the AJR. He has been on the Management Committee in charge of running the Homes since its inception more than a quarter of a century ago and, during the last year, was the Committee's Acting Chairman. In his work, he combines an insight into the wider problems of policy with a strong sense of detail and, above all, a deep human understanding for his fellow refugees. Yet, as general secretary of the Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC), he has also played a leading part in obtaining the means for the erection and running of the Homes out of the proceeds of the restituted heirless, unclaimed and communal Jewish property in the British Zone of Germany. Two volumes written by him under the heading "Reclaiming the Nazi Loot" (1962 and 1971) testify to the complicated work carried out by the JTC, for which, together with Dr. Reinhold Lachs as general manager, he was responsible. By his position in the JTC and in the CBF, whose Joint Secretary he was until his retirement in 1974, he has obtained the esteem of the leading personalities of Anglo-Jewry and, beyond this, of the major Jewish relief organisations abroad. This is also reflected in his position as a Board member of the world-wide United Restitution Organisation, where his expertise in organisational and budgetary matters is a particular asset. Last but not least, his fellow refugees from Austria are indebted to him for his untiring efforts on their behalf, which have resulted in various relief measures as well as in special regulations for the Nazi victims in the field of social insurance.

It is indeed a wide range of constructive work by which Charles Kapralik has left his mark on the history of the victims of Nazi persecution. Unavoidably, he has not been spared some of the physical shortcomings which go with advancing age. Yet he has retained his energy, his vitality and his alertness, and it is our sincerest birthday wish that he may continue to excel by these qualities for a long time to come.

W.R.

DR. BERNARD MARX 80

Dr. Bernard Marx, London, celebrated his 80th birthday a few weeks ago. He was born in Cologne, where he practised as a dental surgeon. He was very active in the Maccabi Movement in Germany and is a member of the KJV, the German Zionist student fraternity.

He arrived in this country just before the outbreak of war and had very difficult times before he could again settle in his old profession. In spite of all the hardships he devoted a lot of his time to work for Jewish Affairs and was for many years chairman of the British section of the KJV. The AJR, of which he has been an interested member for many years, joins his friends in extending its sincerest congratulations to Dr. Marx.

JOSEPH ROSENSTOCK 85

The conductor Joseph Rosenstock recently became 85 years old. Born in Cracow, he held positions as musical director in Darmstadt and Wiesbaden. When the Jewish "Kulturbund" was founded in 1933, he became its first conductor. He later went to Tokio and afterwards to New York, where he held appointments with the City and Metropolitan Operas. After the war, he was Musical Director of the Cologne Opera from 1958-1960. He was awarded the Mannheim Schiller Medal in 1955, and the land Baden-Wuerttemberg bestowed on him the title of professor in 1967. Joseph Rosenstock now lives in Salt Lake City, USA.

E.G.L.

NELLY-SACHS-PREIS FOR ERICH FROMM

Shortly before his death, Professor Dr. Erich Fromm, the social philosopher, was awarded the £5,000 Nelly-Sachs-Prize of the City of Dortmund. Fromm was born in Frankfurt as the son of a well-to-do Jewish family in 1900. He was one of the founding fathers of the famous Frankfurt School, and after fleeing from the Nazis, taught in several US universities and in the Mexico National University. For the last few years, he lived in retirement in Switzerland. The prize was received for him by his assistant Dr. Ruth Liepmann, Zürich, as he was too ill to travel. The laudatio was given by his former assistant Dr. Rainer Funk, Tübingen, who said that Fromm had devoted his life to develop the fundamental human forces of reason and love in his pupils.

ROSENTHAL CHINA CENTENARY

The famous firm of Rosenthal, founded in 1880 by Philipp Rosenthal (1855-1937) in Selb, Bavaria, has just celebrated its hundredth anniversary. Its products have since become famous all over the world. Philipp Rosenthal came from a Jewish family in Westphalia, but no longer belonged to the Jewish faith. This did not prevent his descendants from being forced to emigrate, though, because of its renown, the firm did not change its name after being "aryanised". The founder's nephew, Ernst Rosenthal, went to London in 1935 and founded two firms. He died in London in 1969. His son, Philip Rosenthal jr., lived in Britain between 1934 and 1948, and has run the Selb firm since 1950. As a member of the Socialist Party, he was a Parliamentary Undersecretary in the Bonn Ministry of Economics between 1970 and 1971.

JEWISH MATHEMATICIAN REMEMBERED

In the Mathematics Department of Bonn University a plaque has been unveiled in memory of the mathematician Felix Hausdorff who committed suicide in January 1942 as a victim of persecution for his Jewish descent.

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.

Births

Ray-Sinclair.—To Annette (née Sinclair) and Colin Ray a daughter on February 28; first grandchild to Liesl and the late Fred Sinclair (Fritz Schneider-Beuthen).

Wedding Anniversary

Bennett.—J. Bennett (formerly Benno Berger of Nurnberg) and Lotti (née Teicher) are happy to announce the 50th anniversary of their marriage which was solemnized by Dayan David Feldmann and Rabbi Dr. Felix Goldmann in Leipzig on March 30, 1930.

Deaths

Gotthilf.—Mrs. Elsa Gotthilf of 105 Priory Road, London, N.W.6, passed away on January 30. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her family and best friend.

Gottschalk.—Mrs. Meta Gottschalk (née Schlachic) of Leo Baeck House, The Bishop's Avenue, N.2, died on February 15, aged 88, after a long illness. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her family and friends.

Grundmann.—Rudolf Max (Ralph) Grundmann of Low Street, Elston, Newark, Notts., died suddenly on February 24, aged 64. Deeply mourned by his wife Margaret, daughter Helen, son-in-law Mike, grandson Daniel and all the family and friends.

Kruh.—Herbert Kruh passed away peacefully on January 23. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife Jetty, daughter Barbara, family and friends.

Manheimer.—Adolf Manheimer passed away on February 16. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his family and numerous friends.

Martins.—Martin Martins (Gnesen/Berlin), family name Schmalz, died on March 2, aged 71. Former member of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, Berlin, and Weizmann Institute, Rehovoth. Deeply mourned by his wife Leah and son John. 92 Carrington Road, Flixton, Manchester.

Weinschenk.—Mrs. Gisela Weinschenk (formerly Nurnberg) died on March 3 in her 99th year, mourned by her daughter and son and the whole family.

In Memoriam

Pototzky.—Luz Pototzky, who died on January 2, 1979, would have been 90 years old on April 15, 1980. Sadly missed by his wife Herta and all the family.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

General Enquiries

Borrows.—Mrs. Andy Borrows, M.D., niece of Prof. Heinrich Rosin. Any information would be greatly appreciated by Prof. S. Leibfried, Universitaet Bremen, Postfach 330440, D-2800 Bremen 33.

Deutsch.—Information is wanted on Miss Hilde Deutsch, formerly of Breslau, born 1900. Please contact R. Schmutzler, Hermann-Loens-Weg 15, 3340 Wolfenbuettel, Germany.

Wassermann.—Luise Wassermann, former Concentration Camp nurse, wanted as witness in trial against Walter Kuemmel for murders in Neuengamme K.Z., by Hamburg State Prosecutor. Last heard of in 1946. May be living in Britain under different name. Brother served in British army. Box 806.

AJR Enquiries

Bernard.—Mr. H. Bernard—last known address 85 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, Glam. CF1 9AF.

THEATRE AND CULTURE

Joseph Roth, born 1894 in Galicia, became a journalist and lived in Berlin from 1921 to 1933. His most famous novel "Radetzky Marsch" was a bestseller. His novel "Hiob" was made into a film by Norddeutscher Rundfunk and recently presented in three parts. It is a very tragic Jewish story which starts in a Russian ghetto and follows the fate of Mendel Singer and his family into the United States. The late Eric Pohlmann was in the cast, which included many prominent German and Austrian actors.

Tit-Bits. A new success for *Paula Wessely* in a French comedy "Les Dames du Jeudi" performed at the Akademietheater, Vienna, under the title "Wie immer am Donnerstag". An exhibition depicting the life of Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria (born 150 years ago) will be shown this year at the old Hunting Lodge Hermesvilla from April till October.

Birthdays. Vienna's "Josefstadt" Theatre celebrated the 80th birthday of its long-serving member *Lotte Lang*, who has been acting on Vienna stages since 1924.

Obituary. The death has been announced of *Franz Strauss*, son of the composer Richard Strauss. He was 83 and lived at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, where he administered his father's collections. His marriage to a daughter of the Austrian Jewish industrialist Grab created a sensation in Vienna's society, although it took place long before the Nazis came to power.

S.B.

ABSTRACTION AT THE TATE

Abstraction: Towards a New Art—Painting 1910-1920 is the first loan exhibition to be presented in the new extension galleries of the Tate Gallery. It remains open until April 13 and is well worth a visit since the pictures come from all over the world and it may be a long time before there is another opportunity to see such a comprehensive display of really fine pictures. As usual, a very comprehensive catalogue is available.

The exhibition is divided into national sections. The German section contains a wide selection of

works by Kandinsky, many of which come from the Städtische Galerie in Lenbachhaus, Munich. There are also a number of works by August Macke and Franc Marc with his beautiful colours, Alexei von Jawlensky and Paul Klee. It is interesting to note that a special section in the catalogue is devoted to the work of Hoetzel and his pupil Johannes Itten, who it is claimed, has been unjustly neglected.

The exhibition also includes a very fine collection of the contemporary works of Russian painters, and the French section contains important works by Picasso, Braque, Leger and many others. Early Abstract Art in Britain is well represented including a number of works by David Bomberg who is now belatedly coming into his own.

ALICE SCHWAB

OSKAR KOKOSCHKA

The expressionist painter Oskar Kokoschka died, aged 93. He was also a gifted writer with a rational approach to social problems. He was the son of a Prague goldsmith who shared with Czechoslovakia's first president Masaryk a great admiration for Amos Comenius, the 17th century Bohemian philosopher and humanist whose "Orbis Pictus" pioneered visual teaching methods. He studied in Vienna where he had his first exhibitions, formed a close relationship with Alma Mahler and met Rilke and Hugo von Hofmannsthal. After the murder of Chancellor Dollfus, he returned to Prague. The Nazis attacked his work as degenerate and removed 400 of his paintings from public collections in Germany. In 1938, British and refugee friends helped him to escape to this country where he remained for many years. He created a number of outstanding portraits, beautiful Cornish landscapes, and paintings with a social and political content. In 1945, he published "A Petition from a Foreign Artist to the Righteous People of Britain for a Secure and Present Peace". In the 50s, he also ran a "School for Seeing" in London. In 1962, the Tate Gallery mounted a major show of his works which he called the finest ever held. In 1971, he wrote his life-story. For the past few years, he had been living in Switzerland.

ERNA NONNENMACHER

Die Bildhauerin und Keramikerin Erna Nonnenmacher ist im Januar im Alter von 90 Jahren gestorben. Die begabte Künstlerin, deren Werke in Deutschland auf verschiedenen Ausstellungen zu finden waren, musste, wie so viele andere Künstler, mit ihrem Mann, dem Bildhauer Hermann Nonnenmacher, die Heimat verlassen. Sie gingen nach London, wo sie im Morley College für 22 Jahre Keramik lehrten.

Erna Nonnenmachers Skulpturen wurden in der Ben Uri Gallery, Geffrye Museum, Alvin Gallery und in der Royal Academy ausgestellt, und sie war Mitglied der Royal Society of British Sculptors. Viele ihrer Portraits und Bronzefiguren, die sich durch eine natürliche und lebendige Wärme auszeichneten, befinden sich in Privatbesitz sowohl in London wie auch in New York und Israel.

Das Ehepaar feierte am 5 Juli 1979 das sechzigjährige Bestehen dieser Künstlerlehre, die im Zeichen einer so innigen Verbindung stand, wie man dies nur ganz selten findet. Um so grösser ist unser Gefühl der Anteilnahme für Hermann Nonnenmacher, der in den letzten Jahren seine Frau mit grösser Hingabe umsorgte.

KURT FRANKENSCHWERTH

HARALD KURT ISENSTEIN

Eighty-two-year-old sculptor Harald Kurt Isenstein, who has died in Copenhagen, left Germany in 1933 and became one of Europe's leading portrait sculptors. In 1975 an exhibition of his work in the Berlin Jewish Community Centre revealed that he was also a gifted painter and etcher: it included a number of self-portraits and portraits of well-known contemporary figures. His bust of the atom physicist Niels Bohr is at the Rehovot Weizmann Institute. As one of the Jews rescued to Sweden from Denmark in 1943, he created the monument "Danish Jews Thank Sweden" in Jerusalem. Before his emigration, he had taught at the Berlin Reimann School and later opened his own art academy. He also published a number of books among which "Playing with Clay" has become an authoritative work for art instructors.

E.G.L.

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Letters to the Editor

THE HAAVARA AGREEMENT

Sir,—I see Mr. Dolf Michaelis describes my reference to the Haavara Agreement as "misleading" because the purpose of the Agreement, he says, was "not to benefit the German economy nor the Palestine Jews". The agreement was one between Germany and the Jewish Agency for Palestine and as such it was obviously designed to carry benefit for each of the parties involved. The German economy was to benefit by way of promoting German exports, the Jewish Agency by way of promoting Jewish emigration to Palestine.

Whether the latter alone was the "main purpose" as Mr. Michaelis says, would seem to be a moot point; in his introduction to the book cited by him, Siegfried Moses says the agreement "rested on the idea of promoting the sale of German goods to the Jewish Palestine". In either case, Mr. Michaelis fails to substantiate his charge against me; if anything, his quotes rather bear me out. I therefore see no reason to withdraw any part of my statement, which was necessarily shorthand within a very different story, that the Haavara Agreement was "a modified clearing arrangement designed to benefit the German economy and the Palestine Jews".

C. C. ARONSFELD

19 Thurlby Close,
Kenton Road,
Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2LZ.

JEWS FROM LIPPSTADT

Sir,—I am engaged in research work on the history of the Jews in Lippstadt and should be grateful, if former members of the Jewish community of that town got in touch with me.

EDUARD MUEHLE

Rechov En Gedi 28,
Jerusalem.

A POSEN CHILDHOOD

Sir,—Referring to Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld's "Memories of a Posen Childhood" in your January issue, it may be of interest to your readers that the City of Posen not only had a Jewish Lord Mayor Witting, but that my father, Geheimer Justizrat Julius Orgler, born 1829, was "Stadtverordneten-Vorsteher" for 30 years, "Vorsitzender des Vorstandes der Posener Anwaltskammer" and, in recognition of his merits, given the Freedom of the City. He was one of the first Jews to be admitted as a lawyer by the Prussian Government. My father studied at the University of Breslau and joined the "Ratzecks", a student organisation of Silesia, which stormed the Wartburg in 1848 and hoisted the revolutionary "Black-Red-Gold" flag there. In later years, my father returned his ribbon, because the "Ratzecks" became anti-semitic. My mother was elected Vice-President of the "Vaterlaendischer Frauenverein" whose President was the wife of the "Kommandierender General". After Lent, my father used to be invited every year by the Archbishop of Posen to the Easter lunch. My parents were also invited to the annual reception and ball given by the "Oberpraesident" which I too attended when I grew up.

MARGARETE JACOBY-ORGLER

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CBF IN MIDLANDS

Miss Joan Stiebel, former secretary of the Central British Fund and her successor Mrs. Eva Mitchell as well as Mr. Stephen Goldman, senior appeals organiser, addressed the inaugural Birmingham meeting of the Midlands committee of CBF World Jewish Relief. A major fund-raising event is to be held in May.

THEA PLAUT

Thea Plaut, née Kneip, was born on September 26, 1899, in Fulda, Germany. She had a very happy youth with her parents, her sister and brother, and many good friends. All of them are dead, apart from one true old German friend, with whom she renewed contact after the war, and whose doctor-daughter near Frankfurt tried hard to help Mrs. Plaut during the last few months.

As a young girl, she joined the German youth movement, "Der Wandervogel", and soon became a group leader. But one day, during the 1914-1918 war, she was called to her supervisor and told: "Thea, we all like you very much, and we do not want to lose you; however, you cannot remain a group leader, because you are Jewish". Thea left the movement immediately.

A few years later, she became a co-founder of the Jewish youth movement "Blau-Weiss". Together with her bosses in the bank, Mr. Emil Speyer and Mr. Ismar Miodownik, she continued to work for Zionism very actively in the Youth Aliyah, first in Fulda, then in Berlin and finally, after her emigration in 1938, in London.

She was happily married to the psychiatrist and author, Dr. phil. and Dr. med., Paul Plaut, who died in 1960.

Her parents declined to emigrate. Her mother died peacefully in an old age home in Fulda in 1941. In 1942, on Rosh Haschanah, her father was taken to Theresienstadt and a year later, on Yom Kippur, transported to Auschwitz, and murdered. This remained her great grief all her life.

Her interest in all things Jewish and in history and art came, more or less, to an end, when she suffered a stroke in 1969. She moved then into my house. Here she died peacefully on the night of February 5.

She is deeply mourned by her daughter, Mrs. Miriam Claire Allen, and her granddaughter Rebecca, her son-in-law, many friends in England and overseas, by my family and, for ever, by me.

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