

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Richard Grunberger

## "LESS THAN SLAVES"

The Guilt of German Industrialists

Of the three SS officers recently sentenced by a Cologne court for deporting Jews from Drancy to Auschwitz one had been mayor of a small German town—in other words a *Respektsperson*—right up to the day of the trial. *Less Than Slaves* by Benjamin Ferencz\* is about German *Respektspersonen* of a different ilk. These were in charge, not of a small municipality, but of huge industrial corporations, with names like I. G. Farben, Krupp, A.E.G., Siemens, Rheinmetall, etc. As owners or directors of world-renowned firms they had collaborated in the exploitation of slave labour which was an integral part of the Nazi war effort. Pursuing profit in the name of patriotism, they had reduced their "employees" to a state described by one of the latter in the following words:

We were not slaves but less than slaves. True we were deprived of freedom and became a piece of property which our masters drove to work. But here all similarity with any known form of slavery ends . . . The machinery had to be operated with care, oiled, greased and allowed to rest; its life span was protected. We, on the other hand, were like a bit of sandpaper, which, rubbed a few times, becomes useless and is thrown away to be burned with the garbage.

Mr. Ferencz comments at the end of his book that whereas Nazi concentration camp commandants were mostly tried and executed after the war, those German industrialists who took slave labourers from the camps and treated them in the manner described above were for the most part not even put on trial. Even those slave masters who had been tried and sentenced were released by US High Commissioner John McCloy under a general act of clemency in 1951, at the height of the Korean War.

The bulk of *Less Than Slaves* deals with the trials of the industrialists and the demand for reparations made by some ex-slave workers who had managed to survive their "employment".

The key case described in the book was one brought in 1953 by Norbert Wollheim, a Buna survivor, against I. G. Farben before the district court at Frankfurt. (During the war, incidentally, the manager of the Buna synthetic rubber factory at Auschwitz had objected to the public beatings given to Jewish slave workers. He felt it demoralised other workers and suggested that the SS carry out the beatings within the confines of the camp!)

At Frankfurt a witness from the Farben directorate characterised the slave-labour camp as a "convalescent home", and defence counsel argued that by employing the plaintiff as a slave worker the firm had actually saved his life!

The court, however, had the integrity to hand down a judgment stating that Farben had, at the very least, been negligent in their treatment of the workforce, and that the firm "cannot evade its responsibility any more than can an individual."

Farben challenged the verdict of the Frankfurt court, and in the ensuing legal tussle informed

Wollheim—and other claimants, who, encouraged by his initial success, had meanwhile come forward—that any compensation payment would have to be accepted as a "goodwill gesture" rather than the "discharge of an obligation" by the firm. The legal battle continued. In 1956, three years after the initial Frankfurt hearing Farben agreed to settle "out of court". They offered 5,000 marks to each claimant—2,000 marks less than the absolute minimum to which the Jewish claim had been whittled down.

A year later the Claims Conference, the Jewish body principally concerned in the negotiations, became, in the author's words, "fed up with the indignity of the continuing hassle about how much should be paid to which Auschwitz survivors" and accepted the low offer.

Then two things happened—each more stomach-turning than the other. Firstly, Farben shares appreciated 10 per cent in value on the German stock exchange. Secondly, Farben shareholders challenged the agreement, which when finally ratified contained the condition—endorsed by the Bundestag—that all claims had to be filed before the end of that year.

This gave the Claims Conference precisely 10 months in which to elicit and scrutinise applications from several thousands of survivors living in 40 different countries across the globe. Screening committees were set up in Prague, Vienna,

Budapest, Melbourne, London, Sao Paulo and Oslo, and a central screening office was created in Frankfurt, with Dr. Ernst G. Lowenthal as managing director.

An applicant who did not know when the typhoid epidemic had broken out or where the latrines were located was soon disqualified. Many ineligible claimants conceded that they must have been mistaken and their claims were apologetically withdrawn.

Detailed information was received from surprising sources. Hershel M. of Paris had engraved into his memory the specific tattoo numbers assigned to the various transports that arrived at Buna. He knew by heart that the first transport was composed of German, Austrian, and Polish Jews from Buchenwald and that they all received numbers between 68,000 and 69,000. The next 1,000 numbers went to the second transport, which came from Sachsenhausen, and the 1,000 after that went to the Czech Jews from Theresienstadt.

## Was Justice Done?

Farben finally paid compensation to 5,855 survivors, and the Claims Conference was able to fix its sights on other major employers of slave labour, such as Krupp and Siemens. Alfried Krupp, who had been released prematurely in 1951, refused to accept any moral obligation to compensate his surviving helots—but was eventually pressured by John McCloy (the ex-US High Commissioner who had set him free) into making payments even less generous than those of Farben. Siemens, who after the war had published a history of the company skilfully obscuring their involvement in the Nazi slave labour, also settled eventually. They insisted, however, that a clause be written into the settlement denying any legal or even moral obligation on their part to pay compensation.

Rheinmetall likewise accepted no obligation whatever, but the Claims Conference could exert pressure on them when they tendered for a US Army contract in competition with the Springfield Armoury. Realising that adverse publicity could harm their commercial interests the firm exorcised its discreditable past by paying compensation. The fifth and last German company to settle was A.E.G.—the firm which under its Jewish founder Emil Rathenau had given Germany pre-eminence in the electrical industry a few generations earlier.

It is estimated that, in all, about 200 German companies had made use of slave labour during the war. The fact that five of them—admittedly some of the largest—eventually paid compensation to their surviving "employees" can thus hardly be considered meritorious, especially in view of the niggardly sums involved.

For all that, the aforementioned five companies were exemplars of virtue and charity by comparison with the remainder.

One industrialist supplied a paradigm for the attitude of that remainder: Friedrich Flick. Flick, another convicted war criminal, owned an industrial empire comprising 300 firms, among them Dynamit Nobel and Daimler-Benz, makers of the Mercedes car. Having employed Jewish girls deported from Czechoslovakia and Hungary to Auschwitz in his munition factories, he contrived

## The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

invites members and friends to the  
**GENERAL MEETING**on Tuesday, July 1, at 7.45 p.m.  
at Hannah Karminski House,  
9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3  
(Side Entrance)I  
Report on AJR Activities  
Treasurer's Report  
Discussion  
Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive will be published in the next issue.

Members who wish to propose candidates for the Board should write to the General Secretary by the end of May.

II  
RABBI HUGO GRYN  
Senior Rabbi of the West London Synagogue  
will speak onRELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN  
DIALOGUE—

Opportunities and Frustrations

Non-members are not entitled to vote  
but are welcome as guests at the meeting

\*Harvard University Press 1979, \$15.00 (£9.00), 250 pp.

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**"LESS THAN SLAVES"**

to avoid making any compensation payments whatever. In 1967 he had actually agreed to pay five million marks—only to renege on the agreement on the grounds that he was "short of cash". Such a shortage did not, however, prevent him from simultaneously making gifts to his son and daughter of sums larger than the Jewish claim. In 1968 Dynamit Nobel stated that it had "neither a legal nor a moral obligation to make payment". Finally, in 1972 Flick died, aged 90.

Reading this one could easily be tempted into the blasphemous thought that God's mills grind exceedingly slow. Mr. Ferencz, who is concerned with human rather than divine justice, comments "Although Friedrich Flick was reputedly the richest man in Germany and the fifth richest man in the world, and left assets worth over one billion dollars to a playboy son, when he went to his grave he had paid the Jewish concentration camp inmates not a single cent".

This is no mere authorial comment. Mr. Ferencz was a key participant in all the negotiations described in his book, and had spent nine years fruitlessly pursuing the Flick case. His dedication to this task arose in large measure from the circumstances of his earlier life. A child immigrant to the US from Transylvania, he had returned to Europe with the American army and witnessed the horrors of the liberated concentration camps. Afterwards, as a US war-crimes investigator, he had been among the first to examine the Nazi records of the holocaust. Finally, having become a lawyer he specialised, in liaison with the Claims Conference, in cases involving compensation for Jewish victims of slave labour.

His book shows him to have been a tireless advocate for the survivors of the Holocaust—and is itself an eloquent epilogue to that mind-numbing event. It deserves to be read and pondered!

**36 MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COURTS**

The Berlin Public Prosecutor has been trying to establish which judges of the infamous People's Courts were still alive and what was known about the sentences they had given. He has now announced that to date, 36 former judges and prosecutors have been found, but that it is impossible to say when the extremely thorough investigation of the whole complex will be terminated.

**TRIAL OF EX-GESTAPO CHIEF**

69-year-old former SS Colonel Ernst B. Ehlers, who was in charge of the Nazi security services in Belgium and Northern France during the Second World War, is to be tried in Kiel, accused of sending 26,000 Jews, including 4,500 children, to Auschwitz. Only some 1,200 survived. After the war, Ehlers was appointed a judge at Schleswig social court, but when he was recognised by former victims, he was prematurely retired in 1962. Since then he is said to have drawn nearly DM 500,000 in State pension payments. 15 years ago the Flensburg district court decided that there was insufficient evidence against him, but now, the Karlsruhe Supreme Court has ordered the Kiel jury to proceed with the charges. His aides, 73-year-old Konstantin Canaris and 70-year-old Kurt Asche, head of the Jewish department at the Brussels headquarters, will be tried with him.

In Dortmund Wilhelm Wuebbels, a former member of the SS and one of the most active neo-Nazi propagandists, has been given a one-year suspended sentence for inciting hatred against the Jews.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

**THE WORLD OF RADIO AND TV**

It is a common complaint that so many programmes of particular interest go out on the air amongst a host of indifferent material that one is apt to miss one of them. There have been quite a few during recent weeks which one should not have missed. The most moving of them all was BBC2's Man Alive Programme on the quest for Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Jewish lives in Hungary during the war and who disappeared after being summoned to a meeting with the Russians in 1945. They have since declared that he died in prison in Moscow soon afterwards, but recently a refusenik arrived in Israel who claimed to have met him in prison in Moscow two years ago. His family, who never gave up hope, have since taken up the quest for him with renewed vigour and enlisted the support of the Swedish government. However, the programme's impact stemmed from the testimonies given by a number of survivors whom he had literally snatched from the trains on which they were to be deported by producing fake Swedish passports. On one occasion, he apologised to the elderly amongst the deportees, saying that as he could not save all, he was taking the young ones to ensure the survival of the nation. The programme mentioned that he had received little recognition in Israel. Only recently a tree was planted in his name in the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles, and a miserable little street was named after him.

**Missionary Activities**

Two programmes evoked strong reactions: London Weekend Television examined the thorny problems of missionaries and discussed the case of a student Benjamin Lesser whose suicide last year was blamed by his parents on his involvement with missionary groups. After an interview with the Lessers, members of the missionary groups with whom he had been in contact, discussed their relations with him. The main one was the Invisible Church whose founder Nelson Nurse said: "His problem was not the Church. The last time he saw me, he called to tell me the tremendous news of his relationship with Jesus." The Rector of Edgware, the Rev. Gordon Bennet, said he felt he had a responsibility to help Jews in his parish to know about Jesus. He had met Benjamin twice and felt it his duty to encourage him in his Christian living. Eventually, a counselling session at the headquarters of the "Church's Ministry Amongst the Jews", whose patron is the Archbishop of York, and an interview with the education officer of the Board of Deputies were shown.

In a discussion on London Broadcasting's "AM" programmes, pro-Arabist Mr Christopher Mayhew MP said Israel's new Foreign Minister, Mr. Itzhak Shamir, had been a member of "Begin's outfit", the Stern Gang. Its activities were wholly unforgivable, and both Mr. Begin and Mr. Shamir had far worse records for terrorism than either Yasir Arafat, the PLO leader, or George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Israel hadn't a friend in the world. Afterwards LBC received more than 120 telephone calls complaining about the remarks, and Mr. Eric Graus, president of British Herut, was invited to a further programme to repudiate Mr. Mayhew's allegations.

A Granada TV programme in "World in Action" investigated the 300 or so war criminals who are prospering in the US by courtesy of Government Agencies and protected by the Roman Catholic Church. The programme concentrated on some of them: the man who killed the inhabitants of the Riga Ghetto among them as well as Valerian Trifa, the instigator of pogroms by the Iron Guard in Bucharest, now a wealthy bishop of the Romanian Church in Detroit. Mr. Charles Allan, a writer described how he was investigated by the FBI after sending a dossier on war criminals to Robert Kennedy, the Attorney-General of the day. He and other researchers later discovered that several of these war criminals were employed by the CIA and the FBI who blocked any attempt to have them investigated. Vice-President Nixon intervened under Eisenhower's presidency to protect Nicolas Malaxa who financed Bishop Trifa's pogroms with the proceeds of his arms deliveries to the Germans. The programme ended with the

conclusion that to the high-ranking protectors of these criminals, who also included the late Cardinal Spellman, it is unthinkable to hand over anti-Communists to their homelands now governed by communists, as anti-Communism has been the driving passion in post-war America.

BBC2 showed a slightly sentimental film about the London East End, the most interesting contribution to which—notwithstanding Arnold Wesker's reminiscences—was the historian of the Victorian Jewish East End William Fishman whose conducted tour contained valuable elements of oral history.

**THE UNIVERSITY DEBATE**

In the 1980 Cambridge Union Society debate, the proposition "This house calls for the immediate establishment of a Palestinian State on the West Bank" was defeated by 144 votes to 53, with 33 abstentions.

At the City of London Polytechnic, Jewish students succeeded in dissuading the union from giving £180 to the Palestine Solidarity Revolutionary Movement of the College in order to hold a Palestine Solidarity Day of Action. The Union was instructed to write to the ambassadors of Israel and Egypt and to the PLO representative in Britain, pledging support for the peace agreement.

Jewish students at Essex University had their application to form a Soviet Jewry Action Group rejected by the Students' Union whose executive, some of whom belong to the Labour Club, called the application a "Zionist trick to divert issues away from Palestine."

At a meeting held at Brunel University, Uxbridge, a fist-fight broke out between a Jewish student and an Arab student. When order was restored, the Jewish students walked out and the meeting was no longer in quorum. A motion which declared Zionism as racialism therefore failed. Brunel's standing orders stipulate that 200 was the minimum number for a quorum. The Arab students, who had previously failed to secure one, had calculated that most undergraduates would be taking examinations and had drafted a great number of post-graduate students. When on this occasion the 20 Jewish students walked out, they were amazed to see that 60 others followed them.

**VISITS TO THE POPE**

Ninety members of the British Council of Christians and Jews were received by the Pope in a special audience when they visited Rome recently. Four leaders of the Council, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Mr. Sidney Carob, Mr. Len Goss and the Reverend Peter Jennings, were presented to him. In his welcoming address, the Pope said that he wished to express his cordial encouragement for the Council's endeavours to overcome prejudice, intolerance and discrimination. Bishop Torella, the president of the Vatican Commission for Christian-Jewish Relations, told the delegates that there was no hostility to Israel, but that it could not receive recognition because its final borders had not yet been settled. He pointed out that the Vatican had no formal relations with Britain or with Jordan either.

After the audience, Christian members of the delegation were deeply moved by a visit to the Rome Synagogue and the Jewish Museum with its reminders of the great history of Italian Jewry.

A few days later, the Pope granted a private audience to Mrs. Ilse Joseph of Heswall, Merseyside, the indefatigable fighter for peace who has travelled the world playing the violin and speaking for reconciliation and peace in memory of her children killed by the Nazis. The Pope was visibly moved by her story and by her appeal to him to help in the fight against antisemitism which was re-emerging everywhere. Subsequently Mrs. Joseph travelled to Berlin where she took part in a public reception to open the "Woche der Brüderlichkeit". She again appealed for love and reconciliation and donated a record of her Kol Nidre recital to the Society for Christian-Jewish cooperation.

## HOME NEWS

### TROUBLE AT UNIVERSITIES

At Salford University there were violent clashes between the Jewish students and the Palestinian Solidarity Society during the annual Israel Week. The Palestinians carried banners reading "Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian children", and one of their speakers drew a parallel between the Munich and the Camp David agreements. A Jewish photographer was forced to surrender his film of the demonstrations.

Supporters of the Palestinian and Arab Students and the British Anti-Zionist Organisation took part in a three-hour Sunday morning demonstration, escorted by police, outside London's Hillel House and distributed anti-Zionist leaflets during a Jewish Students' seminar on "The effects of peace on Zionism".

Mr. Trevor Phillips, president of the National Union of Students, issued a statement to all constituent organisations, saying that a letter sent out by the banned National Union of Iraqi Students was a forgery. The letter alleges that Mr. David Aaronovitch, tipped to become the next president of the NUS, was financed by the Israeli Embassy and had attacked the Iraqi Ba'ath regime and supported its Communist opponents.

At a B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Luncheon in London, the guest of honour was Mr. Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary. Mr. Michael Sacher, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer, referred to the attacks to which Jewish students were subjected at universities up and down the country. Mr. Fred Worms, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Foundation, said the problems facing Jewish students were quite unprecedented. Persecution was too strong a word, but students certainly faced harassment.

At Manchester, however, students passed by a three-to-one majority a pro-Zionist motion, condemning the PLO and calling for self-determination for all peoples in the Middle East.

### NEW PRIMATE AT BOARD OF DEPUTIES

Shortly before his enthronement, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, was guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Board of Deputies at Woburn House and stressed that he was searching for strong links with the Anglo-Jewish Community. Recalling his visits to the Middle East and the fact that he had once travelled from Jerusalem to Damascus and back in one day, he said that at the Jordanian border there had been a sign reading: "Double-crossing is only permitted for diplomats and certain bishops." On his visits to the Soviet Union, he had always raised the issue of Jewish rights with the authorities and had attended synagogue services in Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. The president of the Board, Mr. Greville Janner, presented the Archbishop with an Haggada which Dr. Runcie said he would keep at his prayer stool as something especially precious. The Israeli Consul-General and the political counsellor at the Egyptian Embassy attended the reception together with leaders of several Asian communities and a number of MPs.

### LABOUR FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

Sir Harold Wilson was the host at a reception to introduce the new director of the Labour Friends of Israel, Mr. Doug Hoyle, and his assistant, Mrs. Valerie Cocks. He said it was important to strengthen the Friends' finances because of the major changes in the attitude of the British Government towards Israel, which faced the organisation with a great challenge. Mr. Hoyle, who lost his seat at the last general election, is president of ASTMS, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

### CAMPS INTERNMENT—P.O.W.— FORCED LABOUR—KZ

I wish to buy cards, envelopes and folded post-marked letters from all camps of both world wars. Please send, registered mail, stating price, to:

14 Roselyn Hill, London, N.W.3  
PETER C. RICKENBACK

### VANESSA REDGRAVE WANTS TO BAN ISRAEL

Actress Vanessa Redgrave, known for her pro-Arab and anti-Zionist opinions, appealed to Equity, the Actors' Union to ban the sale to Israel of films and TV programmes and to refuse to work in the State of Israel. She was interrupted with cries of "Shame" and "What about the six million?" Her motion, signed by 31 members, was narrowly defeated by 90 votes to 86 with two abstentions. The Equity conference was attended by 250 of the union's 26,500 members. Miss Redgrave insisted that she was not Anti-Jewish, but the rights of Palestinian artists were inseparable from the rights of the Palestinian people. Among the supporters of the motion was Tom Kempinski, a descendant of the well-known family of Berlin restaurant owners who said he was proud of being both Jewish and a Communist. Several members of his family had perished in the gas chambers. Miss Redgrave said she had many Jewish friends who agreed with her in her objection to the way Israel conducts herself.

### SUNDAY JEWS LOSE LICENCES

Forty market traders claiming to be Jewish turned up for the Sunday market on Blackbushe airfield on 23 September which happened to be the last day of Rosh Hashana. They were reported to the Board of Deputies, and subsequently 15 of them lost their licences. Four managed to convince the Board of their bona fide status. Until last December, it was sufficient for Sunday traders to swear an affidavit that they objected on religious grounds to working on Saturdays. Since then they have been obliged to produce a Board of Deputies' certificate authenticating that claim, but people who already hold a licence are unlikely to have it withdrawn. Traditional markets like Petticoat Lane are not subject to the same regulations, and all traders, Jewish or Gentile, are permitted to trade on Sundays.

### "UNWISE" CENSUS QUESTION

The Board of Deputies has protested to the Government against the planned inclusion of an ethnic origin question in the 1981 census, which it calls unwise and detrimental to good race relations. It also protested against a rank order of ethnic groups, starting with "English, Welsh, Scottish or Irish" at the top, with people of Chinese or "mixed racial or ethnic descent" at the bottom.

### A BENEFACTOR TO HUMANITY

Rolf Schild, now happily re-united with his family after the Sardinian kidnapping, came to Britain as a refugee at the age of 15. His parents were killed in a concentration camp. According to a report in the "Ham and High", he worked for a small electronics firm in 1949 when he met Professor Denis Melrose, professor of surgical science at Hammersmith Hospital. He subsequently played a major part in developing medical technology, particularly the first heart-lung machine used in Britain and the EMI brain scanner for which its inventor, Dr. Godfrey Hounsfield, received the Nobel prize. Professor Melrose said "Mr. Schild has a passionate belief in helping medicine, and it comes from the fact that he feels he should pay back to Britain something for the education and living it has given him." He still has a small company that is working on medical projects.

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## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### New Irish Chief Rabbi

When Rabbi David Rosen was installed into office as Chief Rabbi before a congregation of 350 at the Adelaide Road Synagogue in Dublin, the service was attended by the President of the Irish Republic, Dr. Hillery, and his wife. There were also representatives of 11 embassies and of the two main political parties, as well as of the Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Britain's chief rabbi Dr. Jakobovits officiated at the induction of Dr. Rosen, the Republic's fourth holder of that office. Dr. Jakobovits himself had been the second of them.

### The Cost of old-age Care

Mr. Gruson, chairman of the Dublin Jewish Home for the Aged, said that owing to inflation it now costs £80 per week to maintain each resident "in fairly good health." When there is serious illness, the cost is greatly increased to well over £100.

### Refusenik at Leo Baeck House

CBF/World Jewish Relief held a conference for members of its council and the chairmen of committees in London and the provinces at Leo Baeck House, one of the four Old Age Homes in London jointly administered with the AJR. Guest speaker was Captain Moshe Eidelman, a former Merchant Marine officer from Riga and a refusenik, until he was allowed to leave for Israel to join his wife in 1978. He delivered a message on behalf of Jews still in the USSR, some of whom had been waiting for more than ten years to leave the country: the support of Jews all over the world had helped to give them strength and hope. He added that the officially sanctioned policy of anti-semitism in Russia was furthered by all the media there. When, after the war, he returned from four years in concentration camps, the first question asked by the Russians was: "Why didn't the Nazi kill you?"

### Holocaust Plaque in Synagogue

In the April issue of AJR Information we reported that a holocaust plaque, created by sculptor Mr. Fred Kormis, had been fixed in the entrance hall of the St. John's Wood Synagogue. Our attention has now been drawn to the fact that the plaque can be ordered from the foundry at about £70-75, and it is to be expected that some of our friends may wish to obtain one to present to their synagogues to remember their own family victims of the Holocaust. Another memorial by Mr. Kormis "The Ever Lamenting Harp" is about to be dedicated in Kiryat Gat in Israel.

### A Lucky Dip

A yellow Datsun car, valued at £3,500 and dubbed the "Angela Rippon Cherry" was donated to charity by Datsun and auctioned by Irish Television. It has Angela Rippon's name on its tax book and fetched £7,500. The TV service on which the auction was conducted, called for three deserving charities to share the proceeds. The first out of the hat was the Dublin Jewish Home. A resident of the home, Mrs. Esther Heselberg, had nominated it.

### Moslem buys kosher Hotel

Brighton's last remaining kosher hotel, the King's, has been bought for a reported £200,000 by a practising Moslem, Burmese-born Mr. Peter Bawa, who claims that his grandmother was a British-born Jewess, a Miss Judah. He has been granted a licence by the local kashrut commission to continue to run King's as a kosher hotel, supervised by a shomer, Rabbi Fabricant of Hove said he would rather have a kosher hotel run by a Moslem than none at all.

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# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Rabbi Involved in Fight

Thirty-nine-year-old Rabbi Shlomo Cunin, West Coast director of the Lubavitch movement and 13 yeshiva students of the West Coast Talmudical Academy were arrested for disturbing the peace in Hollywood and taken to the police station in handcuffs. Neighbours had been complaining about their loud chanting in the early morning hours, and when the police arrived in five squad cars to investigate, they were attacked by the students. Rabbi Cunin runs a number of welfare programmes for Jewish university students, drug addicts and prisoners. The 14 men were released on bail.

### Prize for Peace Champion

Fifty-two-year-old Mr. Abie Nathan, the Israeli campaigner for peace, is to be presented with a prize by Hadassah, the American women's Zionist organisation. During the war, he was a Royal Air Force pilot. For many years, he has operated a "peace ship radio station" in the Mediterranean. At the prize-giving dinner in New York's Plaza Hotel, each guest will contribute at least £1,100 to the Hadassah medical organisation.

### S. African Fugitive in Los Angeles

Mr. Chaim Wainer, a fugitive South African Jewish landlord who left his multi-million rand property in chaos and fled in 1976, has been discovered in La Jolla, California, as president of the local orthodox Synagogue. In Johannesburg Mr. Aleck Jaffe, a prominent member of the Jewish community and a former mayor of the city, is leading a campaign aiming at bringing him back to South Africa. When he left, 44 of his companies were taken into receivership and subsequently liquidated, causing investors substantial losses.

## CANADA

### Jews in Trudeau's Cabinet

Two of the three Liberal MPs returned in the recent General Election were sworn in as members of the new cabinet. 49-year-old Herb Gray, a lawyer and an MP since 1962, was appointed Minister for Industry, Trade and Commerce, and 43-year-old Mr. Robert Caplan, a board member of the Canadian B'nei B'rith, is Solicitor-General. Both men wore yarmulkas at the swearing-in ceremony. The Canadian-Arab Federation protested at Mr. Gray's appointment on the grounds that as an active Zionist, he was unfit for Cabinet office.

### Mass Wedding

Twenty-eight Soviet-Jewish immigrant couples have been "remarried" at a ceremony in the Adas Israel Synagogue in Hamilton, Ontario.

## THE JEWS OF ZIMBABWE

A representative of the Salisbury Jewish community has said that at the moment, Jews in Zimbabwe have no special problems. In 1968, three years after UDI, there were some 7,000 Jews in the country. Many of them have gone to Israel, and no more than 2,300 are left.

## EINSTEIN BUST IN MEXICO

President Portillo unveiled a bust of Professor Albert Einstein in the General San Martin Park, where hundreds of Jewish families live. The bust was created by the Russian-born Jewish sculptress, Tosia, who came to Mexico as a child.

## ISRAELI CURE FOR SKIN DISEASE

A Norwegian research team has been treating 25 women patients suffering from psoriasis, a skin disease which afflicts nearly 3 per cent of the Northern Hemisphere's population, with artificially-made Dead Sea water. They had noticed that sufferers from the disease had greatly improved after taking summer holidays in the Dead Sea area of Israel. If their research proves successful, they hope to develop a Dead Sea pill which will effectively hold the complaint in check.

## ALLEGED ISRAELI ARMS PLOT

The Danish police have discovered a plot between Danish nationals and Mr. Zabudowitsch, an Israeli arms dealer, reported to act on behalf of the Israeli Defence Ministry. They had illegally bought a Danish hand-grenade factory.

## ANTI-JEWISH CAMPAIGN IN BELGIUM

The Belgian Chamber of Representatives has asked for an inquiry about the flourishing paramilitary organisations, including two neo-fascist groups which are said to have been trained by right-wing groups at camps in Britain. At a press conference, held by the Volksunie, the Flemish Nationalist Party, reference was made to the "guest" status of Belgian Jewry. When one journalist pointed out that most of them were Belgian citizens, he was told that even black people held Belgian passports, but that did not imply that they were Belgian.

## ITALY

### Rome Reveals Terrorist Links

The 27,000 pages of investigations into the murder of Mr. Aldo Moro, the Italian Christian Democratic leader, in 1978 reveal that there were relations between the Italian Red Brigades, the "Black June" organisation and the PLO. George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was said to have met Red Brigade members in Libya to co-ordinate terrorist activities in order to secure the release of jailed members of both organisations.

### Italians back PLO

Italy's Foreign Minister, Mr. Ruffini, told the Senate in Rome that "Italy has declared publicly on every occasion that it will fight for a solution of the Palestinian problem. . . . For some time Italy has recognised the PLO as the relevant political force of the Palestinian people. However, the right of Israel to live in peace and security within recognised borders must be established before their national destiny can be translated into reality."

### A Public Apology

The municipal authorities of Busseto, birthplace of Verdi, issued a public apology after an anti-semitic incident. During the carnival procession, one of the floats had shown a Jew being thrust into a gas oven by SS guards, whilst in another tableau, a man caricaturing a Jew, was being "stewed" in a pot. The float had been prepared by teenage pupils from a secondary school, and after a number of protests from non-Jews and Jews, the organisers apologised in the local newspaper.

### DUTCH ORDER FOR YESHIVA HEAD

76-year-old Rabbi Berlinger was awarded the Order of Orange Nassau in recognition of his long and devoted service as head of a small yeshiva in Utrecht which he set up in 1945. Until now, students received part-time instruction in the rabbi's home. He has now retired, and his successor will have to transform the yeshiva into a full-time institution.

### ANTISEMITIC OUTBURST IN AUSTRIA

As there is an Austrian law prohibiting incitement to hatred, Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Vienna Jewish Documentation Centre, has filed criminal charges against the "Tiroler Tageszeitung" whose deputy editor-in-chief had published a virulently antisemitic article. In it he maintained that through the ages, Jews had exerted a fatal influence by the destruction of ethical taboos. Freud had turned love into sex and changed men into beasts, and Marx and Engels had brought hatred and envy into politics, as "the Jew Bert Brecht" had introduced it into literature. (Neither Engels nor Brecht were Jews.)

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## IN MEMORY OF SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN

Only a short while ago, we saw Sir Ludwig Guttman in a TV interview, dealing with the special problems of the Disabled in connection with the forthcoming Olympics in Moscow and expounding his plan of an Olympic Village in Stoke Mandeville. He was as clear, determined and outspoken as always and little did we expect that a few weeks later, on March 18, his life would come to an end. "He saved and made worthwhile the lives of many thousands of disabled people all over the world", wrote *The Times* in its obituary, and it is hardly possible to sum up his achievements in more fitting terms.

Born in Tost (Upper Silesia), Ludwig Guttman attended school at nearby Koenigshuette and studied in Breslau and Freiburg. He then became assistant to the famous neurological surgeon Professor O. Foerster in Breslau. When the Nazis came to power, he took up a position with the Jewish Hospital in Breslau, first as director of the department of neurology and neurosurgery and from 1937 onwards, also as medical director. With courage and resolution he saved innumerable fellow Jews. Quite a few of them found shelter in the hospital during the 1938 pogrom days and he was instrumental in enabling colleagues and other fellow Jews to find refuge in other countries. He himself, together with his wife and children, left Germany as late as March 1939. With the help of the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning he was able to take up research work at the Nuffield Department of Neurosurgery in Oxford.

His great hour came in 1944, when he was asked by the British military authorities to take charge of the newly opened unit for spinal injuries at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital at Stoke Mandeville. From then onwards, Stoke Mandeville and Ludwig Guttman became almost synonymous terms. The pioneer work he constantly carried out for the paraplegic has been repeatedly mentioned in these columns, and it is also described in the obituaries published in the national press. His professional resourcefulness was enhanced by the human understanding of the patients whose lives had taken an unexpected tragic turn as the result of war injuries or accidents. It is due to his proficiency that many of them were enabled to leave

hospital and, within the unavoidable limitations, to lead a normal life. In 1969 he had the honour to see Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium opened by Her Majesty the Queen.

Sir Ludwig was also an inspiring teacher to his assistants and colleagues. His advice was sought in many countries, and his death occurred a few hours after his return from Egypt. He has opened spinal injuries centres and rehabilitation units in Australia, Israel, South Africa and Germany, and has three spinal injuries centres and two streets named after him in Spain, Germany, Israel and The Netherlands.

In Israel, with which he had close links, the National Spinal Injuries Centre in Tel Hashomer is named after him, and in December 1978, the Sir Ludwig Guttman Institute was opened in Haifa. His strong Jewish affiliation was symbolised by the fact that he gave his house the name "Menorah".

The many honours bestowed on him included a knighthood, in 1966, being one of the first knighthoods awarded to a refugee. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society and Freeman of the Borough of Aylesbury. In 1972, the late President Gustav Heinemann decorated him with the Star of the Grand Cross of the Federal Cross of Merit on the occasion of the 21st International Stoke Mandeville games in Heidelberg.

For us, "Lumpel" Guttman's loyalty to his community of origin is an additional reason for keeping his memory alive. Having spent his formative years in the German-Jewish youth movement and in the KC fraternity, he remained a close friend to many of its former members. He also associated himself with the AJR immediately after its foundation and was a member of its Board. When the AJR held a meeting on the 20th anniversary of the Boycott Day of 1 April 1933 he was one of the three speakers, and he was also a patron of the "Thank-you Britain" Fund.

As a fitting memorial to him, the first Olympic Village for the Disabled in the world will be built in Stoke Mandeville, and a Sir Ludwig Guttman Memorial Fund has been set up to continue and safeguard his work for all time.

W.R.

### DR. HANS TUCH

Two years ago, this paper congratulated Dr. Hans Tuch on the occasion of his 90th birthday on 15 February 1978. This time it is our sad duty to record his passing away in Vevey, Switzerland.

Dr. Tuch was a judge at the Berlin "Kammergericht". This in itself testified to his high legal qualifications. He was dismissed by the Nazi regime, but after the war, the Federal German Authorities paid tribute to his standing by appointing him "Reichsgerichtsrat i.R."

Dr. Tuch came to this country in 1938 and shared all the vicissitudes of refugee life, including a prolonged involuntary stay on the Isle of Man, an experience to which he often referred without any rancour, but with the sense of humour which was as typical of his personality as his innate kindness and generosity.

After the war, he entered the services of JRSO, the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation for the American Zone of Germany. He was seconded to the Berlin Office, which also represented the Jewish Trust Corporation (the Successor Organisation for the British Zone) and its French Branch. He was in charge of the Berlin Office from early 1949 till 1953 and again from 1956 until his formal retirement in 1965. Yet also after his retirement he continued for many years as Consultant, whose advice was highly valued.

It was in Berlin that evidence of the mass spoliation of Jewish movable property (e.g. Securities and Bank Accounts) converged, but had to be extricated from the bulk of the files of the former Finanzpraesidenten, the Reichsbank, the Prussian State Bank (Seehandlung) and of such strange predatory creations of the Third Reich as the "Haupttreuhandstelle Ost" (General Trust for the Eastern Territories). The extent of these spoliations might never have been even remotely ascertained but for the tenacity with which Dr. Tuch and his devoted staff traced every vestige of evidence through a jungle of files and documents. The Successor Organisations might also have been faced with decades of litigation, if Dr. Tuch's stupendous legal acumen and mastery of argument had not led to the conclusion of a number of global settlements with the German authorities.

An eminent lawyer and an outstanding jurist has left the scene. The writer of these lines was for many years associated with him in a cause in which we both passionately believed, the cause of Justice for the Victims of Nazism. Yet above all, he mourns the loss of a warm-hearted man of infinite goodness and magnanimity—a truly great gentleman.

C.I.K.



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# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## KOLLEK AGAINST SETTLEMENTS

At a gala dinner held by the London B'nai B'rith Foundation, presided over by the new president Mr. Werner Lash, Jerusalem's mayor Teddy Kollek spoke out strongly against the West Bank settlements and the move to Hebron. He said that all those were wrong who said that the settlements were necessary to safeguard Jerusalem. He sincerely believed that, on the contrary, they were detrimental to Jerusalem. "If we want to annex the areas, there is a political justification, otherwise they are a waste of money. For each family settled in the West Bank, there could be three families in Jerusalem."

## WHAT THE POLLS SAY

According to a recent opinion poll, published in a newspaper, 62 out of a total of 120 parliamentary seats would go to the Labour opposition if there was a general election now. Begin's Likud bloc would only get 26 seats, or 40 seats if he were to be replaced by Defence Minister Ezer Weisman.

## FASHION SUCCESS

Israel's clothing industry has boosted its exports by 62 per cent to some £28 million during the past year. According to Mr. Conrad Morris, head of the fashion committee of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Israeli products had succeeded because they were now in the middle-price range. 37 manufacturers exhibited fashions for autumn/winter 1980 in London recently.

At this year's Ideal Home Exhibition, Israel's award-winning Mul-T-Loek was prominently displayed, together with the blue ribbon award "for significant contribution to domestic comfort and efficiency" awarded at the IH exhibition. Its sole UK distributor, Ramicube, has established new markets for it in Southern Ireland and Nigeria. The loek has also gained commendation from police forces, governmental offices and the Greater London Council. 7,000 are already in use in this country.

## LAST ARAB LEAVES JEWISH QUARTER

Only hours before an eviction order was due to be carried out, the last Arab residents left the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem. They agreed to accept compensation, amounting to 500,000 shekels (about £57,000) for the house in which they had lived for forty years. The owner had fought a protracted legal battle to be allowed to remain in the Quarter with his family of 11. Mr. Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem, welcomed the compensation agreement which, he said, was in keeping with the pattern of life in the city where members of each group lived in close proximity to each other.

## PAY INCREASE FOR TEACHERS

The Ministerial economy committee capitulated to tough industrial action by teachers which virtually paralysed the education network and decided to cut 1.5 per cent from the budget of every ministry to finance the teachers' increased pay, totalling some £5 million.

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## BENEFITS FOR TOURISTS

Under a new scheme, visitors to Israel will be able to obtain refunds of VAT on purchases paid for in foreign currency in Israel. Refunds in the same currency, will be paid at the airport banks on departure or sent to visitors' home addresses.

## NO HUNT FOR BLACK MONEY

The Cabinet refused to endorse the plan of Mr. Yigal Hurwitz, Minister of Finance, to check safe-deposit boxes held by private citizens in banks, in order to track down black money from undeclared income.

## JEWISH DRUNKARDS?

Mrs. Aliza Begin, wife of the Prime Minister, is sponsor of the five-year-old Israel Society for the Prevention of Alcoholism which has started a campaign to help the country's 6,000 alcoholics. Judge Bazak, the chairman, praised Mr. and Mrs. Begin for not serving alcoholic drinks at public functions in striking contrast to the distribution of bottles of whisky to the pilots who shot down four Syrian fighter planes last September.

## CATASTROPHIC PRISONS

Mr. Haim Levy, the Israeli Commissioner of Prisons, complained to reporters during a tour of prison facilities that in Israel, prison conditions were worse than anywhere else in the Western world. Because of overcrowding, many prisoners had to sleep on the floor. The total prison population was 5,800, of whom 2,700 had committed security offences. He said he would like a change of the penal system, so that punishment other than imprisonment could be found for wrongdoers.

## JEWISH SPY SENTENCED

The Israeli Supreme Court has rejected the appeal of 34-year-old New Zealand Jew Ian Bader against a six-year jail sentence imposed in 1976 for passing secret information to the Egyptian intelligence organisation in Madrid. Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, had refused to enlist him.

## NEW SLIMMING METHOD SUCCESSFUL

A new method to lose weight has helped dozens of patients of the Tel Aviv Beilinson Hospital to lose several stones in weight. The patients are fitted with a temporary denture which prohibits the consumption of all but liquid food. The denture must be worn for up to seven months and a liquid diet, with few calories, but all essential minerals and vitamins has to be adhered to. After a few days, patients can work and speak normally whilst wearing the denture.

### CLUB 1943

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- 5 Mai. Kein Vortrag.
  - 12 Mai. Dr. E. Kessel-Ruhemann und F. Ruhemann lesen aus Werken von Felix Langer.
  - 19 Mai. Hans Freyhan: "Johannes Brahms—ein Hamburger zieht nach Wien" (mit Grammophonplatten).
  - 26 Mai. Kein Vortrag.
  - 2 Juni. Dr. Ruth v. Schulze-Gaevernitz: "Zur Entdeckung der Erdkugel im Altertum".
  - 9 Juni. Walter Lewis: "The Israeli Secret Service".
  - 16 Juni. Annemarie Jacobs: "Das Land der Maja".
  - 23 Juni. W. R. Powell, BA, FRGS: "Meyering—An Assessment".
  - 25 Juni. Ausflug nach Hever Castle.\*
  - 30 Juni. Clemens Nathan: "A Glimpse at Florentine Art" (with colour slides).
- \*Naeheres ueber den Ausflug wird auf Vortragsabenden bekannt gegeben.

## A ROSE CALLED "ROSALYNN"

At the 23rd Haifa international flower show, a new rose called "Rosalynn" in honour of President Carter's wife, featured among a number of new floral varieties making their international debut. South Africa displayed a new orchid, developed at Cape Town university in recognition of the twinning of Cape Town and Haifa.

## A-BOMB BOOK BANNED

Military censorship has banned a book by Ami Doron and Eli Teicher, which is supposed to give details of Israel's nuclear capabilities. According to CBS in America, Israel is said to have several dozen atomic bombs including hydrogen bombs.

## CHASSID'S DEATH THREAT

Police and firemen dressed as Chassidim managed to coax to safety a Jerusalem yeshiva student who threatened to jump to his death from the fourth floor of the yeshiva building on which he had spent eight hours. He was taken to hospital for a psychiatric examination.

## CHRISTIAN LIFE IN ISRAEL

At a meeting of the London Society of Christian and Jews, Canon Schneider, consultant on inter-faith relations to the Archbishops of York and Canterbury, said that in Israel he had for the first time seen a Christian minority living among a Jewish majority. He did not see an increase in Christian missionary activity as a threat as, since the State was founded, more Christians had become Jews than Jews had become Christians. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the minister of Golders Green Synagogue, said that Judaism welcomed pluralism and co-existence.

## HOSPITAL PROBLEMS

Share Zedek, the orthodox medical centre in Jerusalem, which faced closure because of its debts, has been reprieved. The Government has agreed to pay the debts of over £3,500,000 for running costs and to contribute nearly £2 million to complete the building of the centre. It insisted, however, on reducing the number of beds from 430 to 295 and making redundant some 500 employees, including doctors and nurses. Share Zedek was established in 1902. The new medical centre, which is costing some £25 million, was dedicated last November. Individuals and institutions in Britain are financing four wards, two departments, and an operating theatre.

In Ashkelon, there has been such an overwhelming response to the volunteer dental clinic set up by the Joint Israel Appeal with volunteers from Britain, that a third dental surgery had to be set up and a visiting team, seeing the long queues, agreed to stay for a working visit.

## KEREN HAYESSOD MEDAL

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Keren Hayessod, the government has issued a bronze medal, showing a key and the star of David and bearing the inscription "The Key lies in the Hands of the Jewish people", a quotation from a 1920 appeal by the Zionist Congress in London.

## PRAYER AT THE WALL

Members of the British Everton football team who played against Ramat Gan in their first World Cup qualifying match, visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem and placed notes with a prayer in its crevice. They later said they had asked to win the FA Cup this year. In Ramat Gan, they were held to 1:1 draw.

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## JACOB MAITLIS AT 80

Only a few days back I received from my old friend Dr. Salomon Birnbaum, who after years of Golus in England is now working hard in Toronto, his new weighty book "Yiddish", published by the University of Toronto; and on the first page, in the first paragraph of his preface, I found myself coupled with Dr. Jacob Maitlis. "Some scholars", writes Birnbaum, "have devoted their entire lives to the study of Yiddish," and he lists some of them, among them "J. Leftwich, J. J. Maitlis", arm in arm in the company of such authorities as the Weinreichs, father and son, Yudel Mark, Niger, Noah Prilutzki, Harkavy and the like. I would only disclaim my place among the Yiddish scholastics, since I am not one, not a Yiddish researcher, but a worker in the field of Yiddish literature, and mainly in translation.

However, I treasure the appreciation of my work in Yiddish, both from Birnbaum and from Maitlis. I have just looked at a collection of tributes from my friends when I was 75, and I see Dr. Maitlis there speaking of me as "a craftsman with words, who made his reputation with his translations from Yiddish literature." I am content with this. And on his 80th birthday, an occasion on which the Editor has asked me to comment, I his elder by almost a decade, salute him as one of those men who have devoted themselves to the study and the cultivation of Yiddish, for me particularly the cultivation, the keeping alive of Yiddish with all it means of our roots in centuries of East European Jewish life, East European Jewish culture. For a scholar the two can go together. Professor Sol Liptzin in his book "A History of Yiddish Literature" speaks of "the folklorist and literary historian Jacob Maitlis". And for Dr. Chaim Schwarzbaum of the Israeli Institute for Jewish and Arab Folklore Research, he is the folklorist and the scholarly unraveller of texts. He came like Birnbaum and others to London, a victim fleeing from Hitler Germany, still in time to make personal acquaintance with that other London Yiddish folklorist Dr. Moses Gaster, to consult him and to follow on with his Maaseh Book studies, and produce his own contribution to those studies, listed in Schwarzbaum's massive volume on the Fox fables of Rabbi Berechiah Ha-Nakdan, for his little book "The Maaseh in the Jewish Ethical Literature". Maitlis has done much work on the Maaseh Book, and I find him in Zinberg's monumental work "A History of Yiddish Literature", where he speaks of the Maaseh Book—"Jacob Maitlis, in his monograph 'Das Maasebuch' published in 1933 in German." And Dr. Schwarzbaum has placed it on record that "Maitlis has devoted a life time of study to the Maaseh Book." It is incidentally worth noting that Berechiah was according to the Anglo-Jewish folklorist Joseph Jacobs, an English Jew of the pre-Expulsion era (about the end of the 12th century).

Recently the Israeli Academy of Research published a volume of Dr. Maitlis's research into the language, the diction and the social background of Rabbi Anshel Levi's old-Yiddish Midrash manuscript (around 1530). He has studied and brought up to date a number of other medieval old-Yiddish works. He has written in regard to one of these, "At the end of the middle ages the world of Yiddish developed a rich folk-literature, which beside its secular signs bore a definitely religious-didactic character, which spread through the places where Jews lived at this time in Germany, Bohemia, Upper Italy and Eastern Europe, adapted for the plain unscholarly Jew and Jewess

in their own folk language, paraphrases, tales and legends." And in the Introduction to his "In Praise of Rabbi Shmuel and Rabbi Judah Chassid", Maitlis emphasises: "This study in Yiddish folklore is essentially only part of a larger research work."

Maitlis had been working in Berlin with the Yiddish Scientific Institute (Yivo) before the Churban then still in Vilna, had been one of its early aspirants. In London he took over the activities of the London Yivo group, and he has spoken of this activity in his contribution in the Hebrew University volume "The Cultural Life of the Jews in England".

I have referred to Dr. Maitlis's contiguities with me. They stem from our common interest in and love of our East European Jewish heritage. He has spoken of me in print as "rooted body and soul in the rich soil of centuries-old European Jewishness." He salutes it in me because it is equally, more so true of himself. I have not had his advantages and his deprivations and his losses—of birth and early upbringing in that centuries-old East European Jewishness. He came from Sosnowice, the rich industrialised mining town within the vicinity (40 miles) of Cracow. I know it only from two or three visits there after the Churban. It was an empty shell. But to Maitlis it is home. And his father, Joseph Levi, was the dignified prosperous President of the Jewish Community, who afterwards fell a victim, together with Maitlis's mother and others of his family, to the Hitlerist mass-slaughter. He himself had gone to Germany to study, and had been working at the Hochschule fuer Jüdische Wissenschaft, with his special subject Yiddish. Not long before the war he escaped to England with his wife and their only child, Professor Peter Maitlis (Sheffield University). But the straight road he had chosen in academic life, in scholarly research was diverted, his career like that of many others broken. These studies that he courageously pursues in his field are but sparks that under normal conditions would have blazed into a sustained flame.

JOSEPH LEFTWICH.

### TRIBUTE TO MARGARET JACOBY

Time flies. It is hard to believe that another 12 months have passed since these columns carried a birthday tribute to our dear, widely beloved Mrs. Margaret Jacoby. On May 22, she will be 98, difficult as it is to believe. Her activities are undiminished. She holds the reins of the AJR Club. Energy blended with human compassion give special, yea unique character to her work. She gives guidance to the Club, a friend and adviser to her devoted helpers. At the same time, she would never miss the opportunity of writing to members on happy occasions and in cases of illness. These messages are never matters of routine. They always have a personal touch and are spiced with an inexhaustible sense of humour. Her reports at our Board meetings, delivered without prepared notes and in faultless English, are always high points at these annual events. Living in the present, like few other members of her age group, she is also aware of her roots, and the reminiscences of the leading role played by her family in Posen, her city of birth, published in last month's issue, testify to her role as a link between a long extinguished past and our—utterly different—times. May she remain as strong and active for many years to come. A miracle of body and mind, she is a source of admiration and deep attachment for all who know her.

W.R.

### HONOUR FOR ROBERT WELTSCH

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Leo Baeck Institute, Dr. Robert Weltsch was honoured by the award of the Leo Baeck Medal, dedicated by the New York Section of the LBI. The medal, which carries the portrait of Leo Baeck, was handed over to Dr. Weltsch by Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald, President of the Institute, at a function in Jerusalem, the first part of which consisted of the fourth Siegfried Moses Memorial Lecture, delivered by the historian Professor Gerson Cohen of the Jewish Theological Institute in New York.

In his laudatio to Dr. Weltsch, Dr. Gruenewald paid tribute to the outstanding publicist who, with his wide vision and independent way of mind, had rendered unique services to Jewry and Judaism for more than six decades. In his moving reply, Robert Weltsch, now in his 89th year, recalled the three periods of his activities: his editorship of the "Juedische Rundschau" from the end of the First World War, up to the dangerous years under the Nazi regime, his work for the Hebrew paper "Haarez", and his activities in London, during which he devoted his life first and foremost to the Leo Baeck Institute and was, among other things, in charge of the publication of the Institute's Year Books.

Notwithstanding his age, Dr. Weltsch is still active as an author, and the papers which have the privilege to benefit from his contributions include "AJR Information". Only last month, his Pesach article in this journal testified anew to his continuous eagerness of reading and assessing new literature directly or indirectly pertinent to the present Jewish situation. We congratulate Robert Weltsch, a trusted personal friend to many in our midst, on his well deserved formal recognition of his personality and his work, and wish him undiminished strength for the continuation of his constructive activities for a long time to come.

### MEETING OF COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

On March 20, the "Council of Jews from Germany" held its meeting in Jerusalem. It was attended by representatives of the affiliated groups in Britain, the United States, Israel, France and Belgium. The close bonds between the organisations of the Jews from Germany in their various countries of resettlement have been persistent since the Council's foundation after the war; thus the Council has been able to act as the spokesman on all matters of common interest to them. The reports given at the meeting re-affirmed the intensive and steadily increasing work carried out by the affiliates for the benefit of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. Due to the age structure of the remnants of German Jewry, the establishment and maintenance of Homes has become of increasing importance. On the other hand, the financial problems for continuing this essential constructive work have reached a critical stage. Under this aspect the expectation of the global German payment under consideration at the time of the meeting was thoroughly discussed at the conference with the view of obtaining an allocation for the benefit of the institutions of the Council's affiliates. The Council, among other things, also discussed questions of finances and organisation. The Meeting was presided over in the morning by Mr. H. Gerling (Jerusalem) and in the afternoon by Dr. F. E. Falk (London). Mr. Gerling resigned as Joint Chairman of the Council and became a member of the Presidium. In his place, Dr. Hans Capell (Tel Aviv), until now a member of the Presidium, was elected Joint Chairman; the two other Joint Chairmen are, as before, Dr. F. E. Falk (London) and Dr. C. C. Silberman (New York).

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### GERMAN AWARD FOR MENUHIN

The German Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Peter Hermes, presented the violinist, Yehudi Menuhin, with the Grand Federal Service Cross with Star. Menuhin was one of the first musicians of world fame to play in Germany after the war. Last year he was awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.

# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## GREAT PLANS FOR FRANKFURT

The committee for culture of the Frankfurt city council agreed unanimously on a Jewish Museum to be opened in the former Palais Rothschild. It will later incorporate the former Philanthropin school, now owned by the city, which is to be preserved as a permanent memorial to the Jews of Frankfurt.

In the autumn, the foundation stone for the new community centre for the present-day community of 5,000 Jews will be laid. It will at last bring the various communal institutions—nursery school and school, youth centre, administration, club rooms and restaurant—at present indifferently housed all over the town, under one roof. The building will cost about 17 million marks (about £4,400,000) and both the city of Frankfurt and the Land Hesse will make a sizeable contribution.

E.G.L.

The cities of Frankfurt and Tel Aviv have just been partners to a treaty of friendship pledging close co-operation and the exchange of ideas, experiences and research results. The Lord Mayors of both cities met in Tel Aviv for the signing of the treaty during a festive session of the Tel Aviv town council.

## GRANTS FOR RESEARCH IN ISRAEL

The West German Government has allocated 1,450,000 marks (appr. £338,000) to provide a chair for mathematics at the Hebrew University's Einstein Institute and a chair of modern history at the Hebrew University as well as some £117,000 for the Tel Aviv Institute of German Culture.

## GYPSIES PROTEST

West German Gypsy survivors of Nazi camps gathered at the former concentration camp at Dachau and began a hunger strike to draw attention to their demands for financial compensation. They also claim that Nazi files on gypsies are still being used by the authorities, and they want them destroyed.

## SPRINGER FOR OLYMPIC BOYCOTT

Berlin's controversial publisher, Axel Springer, said in a recent speech that he was still ashamed of what Germans had done to the Russians during the Second World War, but nevertheless he was strongly in favour of boycotting the Olympic Games. He had never been able to understand why, in 1972, the Games went on after the murder of the Jewish athletes. He quoted a letter from the late Nobel Prize winner, Ernest Chain, who had told him: "You are one of those people who have recognised the danger of the pseudo philosophy of the East Block for European culture."

## NEW RABBI FOR BERLIN

German-born Rabbi Ernst Stein, a former engineer who is a graduate of Leo Baeck College, London, has been appointed minister of West Berlin's three non-Orthodox congregations which have 6,000 members.

## CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON ANTISEMITISM

The board of the West Berlin Technical University has decided to set up a special Centre for the Study of Antisemitism.

## ATTACKS ON BREMEN SYNAGOGUE

Bremen police are still hunting for the people who daubed Nazi slogans on the walls of the city's synagogue and Jewish community centre. The slogans included "Juden raus" and "Freiheit für Lischka" (the former deputy Gestapo chief of France sentenced to ten years' jail).

## HITLER LOSES CIVIC HONOUR

The majority Christian Democratic Union and the Citizens' Party of Bad Nauheim agreed after lengthy debates to revoke the honorary citizenship of Adolf Hitler and the NSDAP district official, Ferdinand Werner. The town council "regretted the honours, awarded under the Nazis, but nothing could be done to alter the fact of the awards."

## EXHIBITIONS IN BERLIN SCHOOLS

After having arranged the informative pictorial and documentary show "Juden in Berlin", the progressive and active Gustav-Heinemann-Schule in Berlin-Lichterfelde held an exhibition "Die Kinder vom Bullenhuser Damm", which shows the fate of 20 Jewish children between five and 13 years old, who were hanged by the Nazis in Hamburg-Rothenburgsort shortly before the end of the war; the children had been used for dangerous experiments in the Neuengamme Concentration Camp. The exhibition will also be shown in other educational institutions. The perpetrators of the crimes were SS-Arzt Heissmeyer and SS Officer Strippel. Heissmeyer, who had first gone underground, was sentenced to lifelong penal servitude by the Magdeburg Criminal Court, whereas Strippel is still scot-free.

E.G.L.

## AN IMMORAL SALE

The Appeal Court of Landau (Palatinate) decided that the 1943 sale of the Kirrweiler Jewish cemetery to a vintner for RM 250 had been against public morals and that the buyer's heir, 50-year-old vintner Erich Hoffmann, was not entitled to any compensation for the restitution of the cemetery to the Jewish community. He had been repaid the price with interest and was not entitled to more. Mr. Hoffmann said he was going to appeal to the Federal Court because he wanted recognition of his rights. He had no intention to destroy the cemetery.

## FOR CANCER RELIEF IN ISRAEL

Sponsored by Mr. Rau, Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, a society for cancer relief in Israel was set up in Düsseldorf.

## "WALTHER RATHENAU HAUS" IN BERLIN

The Dahlem headquarters of the Free Democratic Party has been re-named "Walther Rathenau House". It will also be the seat of a new Rathenau Foundation.

E.G.L.

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F. Reinach

## HOMELESSNESS OF AN INTELLECTUAL

After the following review was written, news has reached us that Alfred Andersch has died in Berzona (Switzerland). His novels, apart from "Efraim", include "The Night of the Giraffe" and "Flight to Afar". He was also a radio-dramatist.

Alfred Andersch, born in Munich in 1914, is one of the better known contemporary German writers. His outlook on life is as cosmopolitan as Thomas Mann's, for whom he has incidentally considerable respect, and he is very much at home in the American, English, Italian, French and, of course, German world of literature. In most of his novels he likes to have at least one Jewish character, and attention has already been drawn in an article in AJR Information December 1971 ("Nonconformists under the Nazis") to one of his early novels, entitled "Sansibar oder der letzte Grund". A later novel, *Efraim*, merits however our special attention.\*

Its subject is the life story of a German Jewish refugee who came to this country from his home in Berlin shortly before the outbreak of the war. He is adopted by his uncle Basil, a distant relative of Sephardic Jewish origin. The latter is a very cultured and learned gentleman and a physician, whose ethical and humane, but unorthodox, philosophy of life young Efraim adopts. He becomes a journalist, is taken under the wings of his chief editor Keir, an upper middle-class Cambridge graduate, who sends him to Berlin in the nineteen-fifties, ostensibly to report from there on the Korean war, but in reality to find out what happened to a Jewish girl Esther in whom Keir was at one time, and is still, interested.

The impressions and emotions Efraim has on being back in the city of his childhood are typical of those most of us have experienced on a return visit to Germany. The first night after he comes back, when he stays in a Berlin hotel, he dreams about eternally packing suit cases, just as he did when he emigrated. He goes back to the family home in the Bismarckstrasse, and his first thought is that he has just come back and everything is as before. He meets the new owners, the wife is even friendly and he feels momentarily that he has returned home, but gradually he becomes aware of the passing of time and that this house has no longer anything to do with him. His feelings are similar when he stands on the site of the old Synagogue in the Fasanenstrasse, and he needs time to realise that the original building was in fact burned down in 1938.

He is invited to a party, but finds the conversation superficial, uninteresting and irrelevant. His anger is aroused and he hits somebody who uses the phrase "bis zur Vergasung", which he takes to be a reference to the gas chambers of Auschwitz, but it is later explained to him that this expression is in common usage in modern German, and just means "like blazes" (in German:

\*Alfred Andersch: *Efraim*, Diogenes Verlag Zürich

wie verrückt). Psychologists may, of course, form some subconscious connection between this term and Auschwitz. Dutifully, he goes to the Convent school, which Esther last attended. His reception is again polite but cool, feelings of guilt may still prevail. He is unable to obtain any information about Esther, who has simply disappeared and nobody knows anything about her ultimate fate. In the end, he comes to the conclusion that there is a final break between his own generation and the present one. He has, however, met in West Berlin a girl called Anna, who hails from East Berlin, and she invites him over for a visit. The East German situation reminds him rather more of his own past. Anna's father to whom he is introduced is an old Communist, who is now disillusioned and, like Efraim, he can see no particular meaning in life. Anna herself, whose age puts her in the post-war generation of younger Germans, understands Efraim better than anybody else and she is almost willing to accompany him back home. Although she flies back with him as far as Frankfurt, she decides there to leave him for good.

We would expect that on the completion of his mission, Efraim would return to London, report to his chief editor Keir and then continue his normal work. This is, however, impossible and the reasons for this are to be found in Efraim's marriage, in his relationship to Keir and in his personality. Efraim is married to a newspaper photographer with a lower middle-class background from the North Staffordshire potteries. She was once Keir's lover, who passed her on to Efraim; he realizes that he has nothing in common any longer with his rather limited and unfaithful wife. Keir, it now turns out, is Esther's real father, since he had a love affair with a Mrs. Bloch before the war, and could have saved his own child quite easily, but failed to do so. Due to this fact, but also as a consequence of his particular Scottish Presbyterian upbringing, he has strong feelings of guilt, and he employs Efraim as a journalist, partly in order to relieve his guilty conscience. A further reason for Efraim's unwillingness to go back to his journalistic work is its particular character. Journalism has always meant for him mere fact finding and objective reporting, but he now wishes just to think, to sort out his own ideas and to write from a subjective angle; the result of all this, so he plans, will be a book about himself and about his destiny.

Berlin means nothing any more, London has disappointed him, he has become somewhat bitter and certainly disillusioned, and in this mood he decides on Rome as his future place of residence, where he wishes to live without any ties or commitments. In his past life, he fails to see any meaning. Why was he saved, why did Esther perish like his own parents and so many others? To say that this is ordained by fate or individual destiny has no meaning for him, the only relevant explanation seems to be that all in life is mere chance, as amongst others Anna's father believes. Ultimately, this world is a world of chaos and certain events are just inexplicable. This philosophy of life is basic to the work of Alfred Andersch, whose thinking is influenced by the philosophy of existentialism and especially by Kierkegaard.

"Efraim" had been much acclaimed when it was first published. Andersch received the Nelly Sachs prize for German Literature for it, and the French periodical *Express* described it as the old myth of the wandering Jew in a modern version. But is it? The novel is written by a non-Jew, this particular world is seen through the eyes of a non-Jew, and the specifically Jewish content is not very signi-

ficant. Basically, this is a story of an individualist, an outsider—most of Andersch's main characters are outsiders and he himself lives outside Germany, i.e. in the Ticino. This is not a typical refugee story, it is rather about a writer and a thinker. The author is interested in Jewish people and their lives, but his main concern is with the homeless, deprived and disillusioned members of our society, and in this sense, also with some Jews.

The book is available in German and in an English translation under the title "Efraim's Book" (Jonathan Cape, 1972). The German edition has a somewhat surprising blurb in which Efraim is described as an intellectual, who happened to come to London as a Jewish child ("er gelangte nach London!"). His background and the Jewish persecution in Germany are not mentioned, and one is left wondering why?

More recently, Andersch has written a well reviewed, more philosophical book about the closing period of the war ("Winterspelt"). As for readers of this paper, *Efraim* should, however, be of very special interest and I can thoroughly recommend this work.

### BUBER BIBLIOGRAPHY

A 160-page bibliography of Martin Buber's works, covering the years 1897-1978, was published at the end of last year by Magnes Press (Jerusalem) and Saur (Munich, New York, London, Paris). It has been compiled by Margot Cohn and Buber's son Rafael.

### JEWISH RADIO IN BELGIUM

A new daily 45-minute programme "Radio Judaica", is being launched in Belgium. The producer is a Belgian lawyer, Maitre Henri Benkowski.

### OPERETTA COMPOSER REMEMBERED

The "League of Berliners and Friends of Berlin" has renamed its guesthouse in Berlin-Grunewald "Leon Jessel House" in memory of the composer Leon Jessel, whose 1917 "Schwarzwalddmadel" and other operettas are still widely remembered. An exhibition showed documents of Jessel's productions. Jessel, born in Stettin in 1871, died in Berlin in 1942 after lengthy imprisonment by the Gestapo.

E.G.L.

### AJR CLUB'S 24th BIRTHDAY

Bringing and Buying was the purpose of more than 150 customers for coming to the Bazaar and leaving happily, loaded with cheaply acquired household goods, cosmetics, foodstuff, jewellery, animal toys and a little more expensive exquisite items from the collection at the Boutique. The foodstore was tops again with £122. The total result: over £1,300, due to the generous contributions of the donors and also to our numerous devoted helpers especially to our sales ladies who contributed by their untiring work to our success.

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# OBITUARY

## ERICH FROMM

The psychoanalyst and social philosopher, Erich Fromm, who has died at Muralto, Switzerland, aged 79, was a life-long critic of the dehumanising effects of modern industrial society. In his best-known book "The Fear of Freedom", published in 1941, he argued that Nazism and other fascist movements offered to their followers a refuge from this inhuman environment. The book has been reprinted 25 times. He was born in Frankfurt as son of a wine merchant and descendant of a long line of rabbis and brought up as a strictly orthodox Jew. He received his training as a psychoanalyst at the Berlin Psychoanalysts' Institute, but eventually accused Freud of neglecting social and economic factors in his teachings. He left Germany in 1933, taught at a number of universities and became an American citizen, but returned to Europe in 1969 and settled in Switzerland.

## MR. F. L. ROSENTHAL

Mr. F. L. Rosenthal, who died at the age of 91, was for many years a member of the House Committee of Heinrich Stahl House. As long as his health permitted, he regularly took part in the deliberations of the Committee and also paid personal visits to the residents, whose well-being was very near to his heart. He will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him.

## Dr. HANS STAUDINGER

Dr. Hans Staudinger, who died in New York at the age of 90, was a high civil servant under the Weimar Republic who as a strong anti-Nazi, voluntarily resigned in 1932, when he was Secretary of State in the Prussian Ministry of Commerce. He emigrated to the United States and from 1984 until his retirement was Professor of Economics at the "New School for Social Research". His wife, Dr. Else Staudinger (-Maier), who predeceased him in 1966, was the founder and, for 20 years, head of the "American Council for Emigrés in the Professions".

## 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.

### Birth

**Rickenback:**— Bobby and Peter Rickenback take great pleasure in announcing the birth of their daughter, Antonia Jill, on April 3.

### Deaths

**Aron:**— Dr. Toni Aron of 15 Byron Court, Fairfax Road, N.W.6, died suddenly on 29 February, aged 80. Sadly missed by her many devoted friends.

**Bender:**— Hedwig Emma Bender (née Stern) formerly Frankfurt/Main, died in London in her 95th year. Greatly missed by her daughters Bertel Silver, 45 Engel Park, Mill Hill, London N.W.7 and Lilian Colman, 45 Ebington Road, Kenton, Middx, and all other relatives and friends.

**Bernhardt:**— Miss Paula Bernhardt (formerly Berlin) of 41 Gilling Court, Belsize Grove, London, N. W. 3, died after a long illness on March 20, aged 86. Sadly missed by her relatives in London, Brazil, Israel and U.S.A.

**Goodman:**— Eric Goodman (formerly Worms), dear husband of Ruth, passed away on 18 March after a long illness. 24 Hardwick Crescent, Barnsley, Yorks.

**Gordon:**— Frieda Gordon passed away peacefully after a long illness on 20 March, aged 83. Deeply mourned by her relatives abroad and her friend Mathilde.

**Heinsheimer:**— Dr. med. Siegfried Isidor Heinsheimer, aged 76, died peacefully on January 24 after a short illness at his home, 28A, Wellesley Road, Chiswick, London, W.4. Deeply mourned by his wife Liesel, née Altschueler, daughter Ruth, son-in-law Peter and grandsons Simon and Tom.

**Herrmann:**— Betty Herrmann died peacefully on April 10, two days before her 74th birthday.

**Hess:**— Manfred Hess, C.Chem., FRIC, FIMF, FTSC, of Northwood, Middx, formerly of Wolverhampton and Pirna nr. Dresden died March 26 at the age of 81. Remembered with fondest memories by his wife Trude, children and grandchildren, brother, sister and family and by his private and professional friends, 101 Westbury Road, Northwood, Middx.

**Hoffstaedt:**— Dr. Ernst and Martha Hoffstaedt, formerly of Berlin, died aged 84 and 82 on 3 March. With the help of an English clergyman they arrived in this country on 29 August, 1939. Dr. Hoffstaedt worked as a chest physician until his retirement in 1960 and was then in charge of the first anti-smoking advisory clinic of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne. They are deeply mourned by their many friends.

## IN MEMORY OF HANS FUCHS

Two years ago, the 40th anniversary of the 1938 November pogroms was remembered in Germany in a number of Television and radio broadcasts. One TV show, shot in this country, was to give German viewers an idea about the life of refugees in Britain, showing three former refugees, Arnold Horwell, Gertrude Stranz and Hans Fuchs, who in different ways were typical of our community. Probably, Hans Fuchs's struggle to strike roots was the hardest one. It is now learned that he has died at the age of 58. The son of a gynaecologist in Breslau, he came to this country as a boy and became a leather worker in the Midlands. Later, he established a leather goods business in West Hampstead. His struggle with the language of the country was aggravated by the Midland dialect of his fellow workmen, a fact which he demonstrated amusingly in his broadcast. His appearance fittingly counterbalanced the more intellectual and academic approach of his two partners in the film, thus avoiding a one-sided description of our multifarious community. Though integrated into the life of his new environment, Hans Fuchs always remained conscious of his special position, and it filled him with pride and satisfaction that he could give vent to his feelings in the film, which also resulted in many approaches to him by German viewers.

## HANNA ROVINA

The great Hebrew actress Hanna Rovina, who as co-founder of the Habima Theatre in 1917 became known as one of Europe's leading tragediennes, has died in Jerusalem, aged 91. One of her outstanding parts was Leah in the "Dybbuk" with which she conquered Berlin in the 20s. In 1928 she emigrated to Palestine and remained for many years the Habima Theatre's leading actress, appearing with the company in Israel and in many countries overseas.

## MRS. ELIZABETH DE ROTHSCHILD

Austrian-born Mrs. Elizabeth de Rothschild has died at Exbury, the Hampshire Rothschild estate. She was born Elizabeth Edith Lentner and was for many years president of the women's division of the CBF and an active supporter of many other Jewish causes, including the Hebrew Uni-

versity and OSE. At her wedding in 1948, the officiants were the late Chief Rabbi Dr. Israel Brodie, and the present Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits.

## PROFESSOR FRITZ BAER

The eminent historian Professor Fritz (Yitzhak) Baer has died in Jerusalem, aged 91. The descendant of a well-known Halberstadt orthodox family, he went to Palestine and became one of the first scholars and teachers of the Hebrew University. In Germany, he published a number of seminal works during his teaching at the Research Institute for Jewish Scholarship in Berlin. Professor Ernst Simon, Jerusalem, referred to him as "the Ranke among Jewish historians".

E.G.L.

## BETTY CASH

Betty Cash, photographer and travel writer who has died recently, was the widow of J. Allan Cash, the famous photographer and writer and founder of the Allan Cash picture library. His photographic studies appeared in most papers in this country. His wife was widely known for her photographic studies of life in Israel, a country about which she published a number of well-informed and enthusiastic articles.

## RESEARCH WORK ON GERMAN JEWRY AND ANTISEMITISM

### New Bibliography Planned

"Germania Judaica", Koelner Bibliothek zur Geschichte des deutschen Judentums, Josef-Haubrich-Hof 1, 5000 Cologne 1, is preparing a new edition of its information about study projects in the field of German Jewry and Antisemitism. The publication is to include information on all planned, current and completed investigations on the subject, including habilitation papers and doctoral or master theses. All interested scholars, professors and students are asked to inform the "Koelner Bibliothek" about unpublished works of theirs on the subject matter.

### MATERIAL REQUESTED

The "Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes" plans the publication of material about the Austrian anti-Nazi emigration and asks all persons owning documents on the state of Austrian refugees in Great Britain (especially papers published in the internment camps) to get in touch with them (Altes Rathaus, Wipplinger Str.8, A-1010 Vienna 1).

**Jonas:**— Mrs. Kate Jonas, wife of Dr. W. Jonas, passed away peacefully on 16 March after a long illness.

**Linton:**— It is announced with deep regret that Louis A. Linton (formerly Dr. Ludwig Liebermann) passed away. According to his wishes, his body has been donated for anatomical studies and his eyes to a blind person.

**Pinner:**— Dr. Walter Pinner of 23 Moorland Court, Edgbaston, Birmingham 16, passed away on March 29, aged 89. Deeply mourned by his family and friends.

**Seal:**— John (husband of the late Kate Seal) passed away suddenly on March 31. Sadly missed by family and friends.

**Watt:**— Josef Watt of 45 Hillside Court, Finchley Road, N.W.3 died on April 11. Sadly missed by his many friends of the K.C. fraternity in Great Britain and those who knew him.

**Weiss:**— Hans Weiss (formerly Sagan/Schlesien) of 17 Woodhall Avenue, Pinner, Middx. died on March 21, shortly before his 80th birthday. Sadly missed by his wife Poodle, his children and grandchildren and friends.

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### General Enquiries

**Peres:**— Noomi (Sophie-Hilde, née Blumenfeld), lived in England during the war, then emigrated to Israel. Age now about 52. Replies to Box 808.

# NEWS FROM THE EAST

## RUSSIA

### No Olympics for Disabled

Russia has refused to stage the Paraplegic Olympics, founded by the late Sir Ludwig Guttmann, saying that it was impossible to stage both events. Traditionally they have always been held in the country where the Olympics took place.

### First Rabbi Ordained

Mr. Adolf Shayevitch, a former engineer, has become the first Soviet rabbinical student to be ordained for more than 30 years. He received his diploma at the Budapest Jewish Theological Seminary in the presence of 500 people, including the Rabbi of Moscow and the chairman of the Moscow Jewish religious community. He will probably be appointed to the Leningrad Synagogue, the second largest in the Soviet Union, which has been without a rabbi for many years. Of the 16 students at the Budapest Seminary, 12 are from Hungary, three from the Soviet Union, and one comes from Czechoslovakia.

### Seder in Moscow

Moscow's Arkhipova Street synagogue bakery baked 150 tons of matzot for the city's Jews. All members of the congregation were invited to a Seder Service. Matzot were also sent to rabbis in a number of countries who had previously been guests of the Moscow synagogue, rabbis in Hungary and Britain among them.

The American Joint Distribution Committee sent nearly 180 tons of matzot and Passover goods to many countries including Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Poland. Some 100 tons were sent to Romania. Soviet-Jewish emigrants in Italy, waiting for their US visas, were provided with all requisites for the Seder, including Haggadot in Hebrew and Russian.

## POLAND

### Antisemite in Politbureau

Fifty-five-year-old Andrzej Werblan, who officially inspired the 1968 Polish anti-Zionist campaign as its leading ideologist, has been elected to the Polish Politbureau. The campaign marked the virtual end to a millennium of Jewish settlement in Poland. Mr. Werblan had claimed that the Jews, a national minority, took an excessive share in the elite of power, national defence, security, propaganda, and representation abroad. There are now between 6,000 and 8,000 Jews in Poland as compared to 3,500,000 in 1939, of whom three million were murdered by the Nazis.

### "Zionist Slander"

Poland's political leadership has blamed "Zionist circles" in the United States for "an intensification of the gross campaign of ridicule and slanderous insinuations directed against the Polish people, and a rash of Polish jokes". The government-controlled Polish press also accuses West Germany of collaborating with Israel in an anti-Polish campaign. In a Warsaw newspaper, Edmund Orkiszewski rants against writers like Leon Uris, Elie Wiesel and others for their "lie that Poles, Hungarians, Ukrainians and Rumanians surpassed the Nazis in brutality in murdering Jews". He also accuses B'nai B'rith's "National Jewish Monthly" for having started the campaign in 1969 with an article that "dared to allege that antisemitism is an integral part of Polish life, accepted, sanctioned, and encouraged by Church and State". These accusations had been intensified after the election of Pope John Paul II.

### Curb on Drop-Outs

Mr. Raphael Kotlowitz, head of the Wizo immigration and absorption department, revealed during a visit to London that the Joint and Hias, the two agencies helping Soviet Jews to go to America, had accepted a proposal by the Israeli Government to assist them only if they are joining "first-degree" relatives,

## CENTENARY OF A POET

Am 17. April war der 100. Jahrestag der Geburt von Eduard Saenger. Nur wenige Freunde, die ihn persönlich kannten, sind noch am Leben. Er selbst ist schon am 22. März 1948 in London gestorben. Aber die Leser deutscher Lyrik, die seine Gedichte—"an Hoelderlin anklingend", wie Jakob Hegner einmal schrieb, kennen, werden seiner gedenken, so wie er selbst Aller gedachte, die uns durch die Hitler-Katastrophe in Deutschland entrissen wurden:

### GEDENKEN

Von Eduard Saenger

Der Tag ist wie mit Fäden  
stillgehalten.  
Noch glühen Rosen,  
überzeitlich, ungebeugt.  
Und ihr seid ausgetilgt  
und hin, ihr, Lieben?  
Wer sagt noch, einer lebt,  
ein anderer schwand?  
Rosen, erscheinende,  
fortglühendes Gedenken . . .  
und stillgehalten wie mit Fäden  
ist der Tag.

(I.S.)

## REFUGEE PHILOSOPHER HONOURED

Sir Karl Popper who was a professor at the London School of Economics from 1946-1969, was given an honorary degree by the Frankfurt University last year. The speeches made by him and others on that occasion have now been published in a special symposium. Professor Popper was born in Vienna in 1902. His father was a lawyer, but as a young communist, he worked as a carpenter and social worker before studying philosophy and psychology at Vienna University. Until 1936, he taught mathematics and physics in various schools, then he taught in New Zealand for 10 years before coming to London where he became famous for his fundamental work on "The Open Society and its Enemies" and made important contributions to the theory of knowledge and of scientific research. He has abandoned his socialist background and become a protagonist of liberal democracy.

E.G.L.

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We regret that due to industrial action there has been a delay in the production of this issue.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

Otto Preminger, the versatile film director, has just completed his 34th picture, "The Human Factor", based on Graham Greene's novel. His next subject can be expected with particular interest: a film about the four Israeli wars.

50 years ago, "To-day I am so happy" ("Ich bin ja heut' so glücklich") was sung and whistled by everyone in 1930, when delightful Renate Mueller stood at the beginning of her whirlwind career which was to end so abruptly. She was—and this was learnt much later—only "so happy" in her film "Die Privatsekretärin", but not in private life. In love with a German-Jewish doctor who emigrated after the events in 1933, she was blackmailed by the Nazis, but she never yielded and, coming under very strong political pressure, was driven to utter despair and committed suicide in 1937.

**Obituary.** The death was announced of Franz Schafheitlin who died in Munich, aged 84. Well-known as stage and screen actor, he was Mephisto in one of Max Reinhardt's Salzburg productions of "Faust".—*Maria Kramer*, who has died in Vienna at the age of 73, was personification of Viennese charm. Starting in 1928, she was one of the most popular members of the Vienna Burgtheater. Sadly, she had been an invalid for many years, after a brain tumour ended her stage career during a tour of Holland in 1954.—Obituary notices in Munich call *Olga Tschechowa* who has died there, aged nearly 83, "elegance in person". She acted in over 200 films during a long and successful career. Whether seen in "Drei von der Tankstelle" in 1930 or watched in her dealings as head of her cosmetics firm (which she ran to the last days of her life) she was—so the papers say—"efficient, impressive and a fighter who would never give up".

**Alfred Polgar Biography.** After 1938, Alfred Polgar, the "feuilletonist" of the Twenties and Thirties, called himself a "displaced person". This—and much more—is quoted in a biography "Er war Zeuge—Alfred Polgar" by Ulrich Weinzierl, published by Loecker & Wegenstein Verlag, Vienna. The references to his numerous bonmots remind

us of this most intelligent writer, who remained eager and active even after the loss of his Austrian homeland. When asked, whether Australia was not too far a place for contemplated emigration, he gave the often quoted reply: "Far—from where?". S.B.

## DUSTIN HOFFMAN WAR FILM

Columbia Pictures in the US are about to make a film about a true happening in the Yom Yippur War. The writer of the scenario, Mahmoud Kabil, captured an Israeli pilot Yair Barak, and the two men became close friends. They recently met again for the first time in 12 years. The Jewish actor Dustin Hoffman is reported to have been offered about £1.6 million for playing the star part.

## CEMETERY GARDENER'S POEMS

"Dead-Man's Fall" published by Bodley Head, is the first collection of poems by James Greene who was born in Berlin in 1938 and for some time worked as a gardener in Willesden's Jewish cemetery. Previously, he had studied French and Russian at Oxford, and psychology and English at London University, and worked in psychiatric hospitals. Even earlier, before coming to this country, he had studied art under Kokoschka in Switzerland, and wanted to become a painter. He has also done a number of translations from Russian and French.

## WRITER INTO RABBI

Mr. William Wolff, a well-known Fleet Street journalist, has become a student at the Leo Baeck College in order to train as a rabbi. He has worked for Reuter's, travelled all over the world, and been in the House of Commons Press Gallery, but says he always wanted to be a rabbi. He now works free-lance for the "Daily Express", the "Evening News" and the "Now!" magazine, and commutes between Fleet Street and Seymour Place.

## ADELE REIFENBERG-ROSENBAUM A Remarkable Exhibition

A remarkable display of work by the octogenarian painter Adele Reifenberg-Rosenbaum was on show last month at the Margaret Fisher Gallery, 2 Lambolle Road. Not all the works were of recent origin, but the exhibition as a whole clearly demonstrated the breadth, vigour and versatility of the artist's talent.

Especially striking was the oil painting of the artist's mother and another oil painting, not for sale and not included in the catalogue, of her sister-in-law. In another sphere, there were some excellent landscapes, especially a view of Eastbourne and another of Jaffa. The exhibition did not only comprise oils, but also a large selection of pastels. These are well drawn with distinctive but blending colours. Particularly striking were "The Tree in the Garden" and "The Letter-box in Englands Lane". There were also two pastel nudes which in themselves were well worth a visit. Prices, in these inflationary times, were very modest. ALICE SCHWAB.

## BEQUEST TO NATIONAL GALLERY

One of the two latest acquisitions of the National Gallery, Monet's "Bathers at La Grenouillere" which has just come on show, is delighting many visitors. Together with a Cezanne, it has been bequeathed to the Gallery by Mrs. Walzer of Oxford, who inherited it from her father Bruno Cassirer. It is one of the earliest impressionist pictures.

## REFUGEE CHILDREN

Sir,—I am doing research work on the topic of the Jewish Refugee Children in Great Britain 1938-1945 and am looking for any kind of material on the subject. I would also ask former refugee children to contact me, and also people who worked with them.

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