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INFORMATION

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ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weltsch

THIRTY YEARS AFTER MUNICH

Just thirty years ago this October, German Nazi troops invaded the outer ring of Bohemia, the so-called Sudetenland. This was the beginning of a world-wide catastrophe which later extended to many countries and nations, caused indescribable destruction and ultimately led to the extinction of European Jewry. A huge literature has sprung up about the policy which led to the Munich Conference of September 30, 1938, where Czechoslovakia's fate was decided in her absence, as a deal among the big powers which gave Hitler a free hand. It happened on the name-day of Saint Wenceslaus, whose statue in Prague has served as a centre of non-violent resistance against the Russian invasion these days.

Especially in Britain fierce discussion about the controversial policy of appeasement goes on. What followed in Czechoslovakia after Munich has been impressively described by the then American representative in Prague, Mr. George Kennan, the famous "Mr. X," who in 1947 invented the slogan of "Containment" of Communism. It is an ironical incident that his new book* on that period came out exactly at the time when the brave Czech people again face the ordeal of foreign occupation, this time by a power which was believed to be ethnically and ideologically linked to them but now does not conceal its determination to subjugate them to its own purpose. The topicality of Kennan's book lies also in his description of the dilemma of the Czech leaders in 1938, and how they had to adapt themselves, step by step and often against their own will and conscience, to the policy prescribed by the omnipotent overlord, including, at that time, to his determination to destroy the Jews. It seems, however, that more quislings were at hand in 1938, especially in Slovakia, than appear to be today, at least at the time of writing.

In any case, at that—now remote—time of Munich, which is legend to the new generation, one thought that world war had been avoided by choosing the lesser evil, at the expense of the Czech people. That it spelled disaster for the Jewish community of that country could not affect the course of events. The similarity of developments in 1968 with those in 1938 naturally induced the whole world to look back at the earlier occupation, but we would have remembered it anyhow. For the Jews Munich was a decisive date, the unleashing of ruthless persecution which made the world aware of their situation. Munich was, of course, a terrible and unexpected blow to the Czechs who had not

realised to what extent their democratic country had been abandoned by those whom they regarded as their—official or unofficial—allies.

It was a portentous omen for the Jews who rightly assumed that after the unconditional surrender of democratic statesmen to Hitler the last brake would be removed on his treatment of those Jews who were then under his jurisdiction (German, Austrian and Czech). To his own surprise Hitler had learned that he could get away with the most outrageous actions. A foretaste of this attitude of foreign powers had been—only two months earlier—the intergovernmental Conference of Evian (July, 1938), which had been convened at the initiative of President Roosevelt; there the delegates of 22 States deplored the ordeal of the refugees and would-be refugees from the Greater Reich, but anxiously avoided blaming the German Government for what it was doing with its own citizens, on the principle that nobody was entitled to interfere with the internal affairs of a sovereign power. Moreover, in spite of the expressions of horror and compassion, the representatives of governments insisted that admission of refugees could take place only within the limits of existing immigration laws—which means that no pompous conference would have been needed. Now Hitler felt completely secure in the handling of "his" Jews, and the immediate consequence was, first, the dumping of Polish or stateless Jews resident in Germany into a no-man's land on the Polish frontier and, subsequently, the "Crystal Night" of November 10, 1938.

This time, we hope, there will be no direct consequences specifically for the Jews, if only because very few Jews are left in Central Europe. But we are stunned by the tragedy of a whole people, heir of a most inspiring history of non-conformism, the country which, according to a saying by Bismarck, was the very key to Europe. Perhaps the most depressing aspect of the events is the impotence of all those who, much to their own humiliation, can proffer nothing but verbal outbursts of indignation. It may be an example of the necessity to subordinate "minor" or marginal matters to the overriding interest of maintaining world peace; no wonder that this gave rise to the rumours of alleged silent connivance by America whose motives may be similar to those of the appeasers of 1938. The Great Power of today, like the great powers of yesterday, is reluctant to unleash a world war, the more so as this time it would be nuclear. If this allegation is correct it requires re-thinking of the current theory of independence of small States, apt to mislead

the powerless peoples into a feeling of security which, in fact, lasts only as long as it pleases the great powers. Most statesmen nurtured this illusion by constant rhetorical platitudes about self-determination and respect for sovereignty. The shock which the occupation of not only a sovereign, but even an "allied" country entails is not at all explained by the overt destruction of this cherished illusion, even if we take into account the reality of recognised spheres of influence.

Writing in a Jewish journal, we naturally ask ourselves about repercussions which may follow for the Jews. Such reflections should not be misunderstood as though, faced with such a tragedy, we were concerned only with our own affairs. But in these columns our comments are of necessity limited to the Jewish context.

There are two obvious elements of Jewish aspects. One is the position of the State of Israel, against which ruthless Soviet propaganda has been directed for more than a year; the second is the peculiar position of the Jewish intellectual who, wherever clashes of this sort occur, is always a target for potential persecution. This is not only the concern of the individuals directly involved; it is the fearful experience that powerful factors, especially where they enjoy a monopoly of propaganda, still trust they can make their case more palatable to the masses by describing the detested side as Jewish, Jewish-inspired, or, according to the most recent fashion, "Zionist". In the language of the Communist block, Zionism during the last year has been translated into a synonym for reaction, aggression, counter-revolution, etc., one of those forces which (to the believers) are branded as hostile, if not outright criminal.

This quest for exploiting the latent, or not so latent, antisemitic feelings of the ordinary man shows us that such a prejudice is still regarded as effective. Even if only a few individuals are specifically named, their inclusion into the category of Jew is intended to throw a sinister light on the camp of the adversary. That must be a shocking disappointment to many people who thirty years ago regarded Communism as the most efficient counterpoise to Nazism. What a depressing spectacle it is to learn that terrified Czech youth, still under the trauma of the Hitler invasion of 1938 from which the Soviet forces had "liberated" them, had to paint swastikas on the Russian tanks in the streets of Prague! But that also hits the use of anti-Jewish slogans practised now in some Communist quarters.

The manner in which the anti-Israel propaganda was conducted had shown that the Jewish State, far from "solving" what was called the Jewish problem, had evoked a new variety of antisemitism as a political weapon. At the same time it makes one conscious of the dependence of such a State, however ready to defend itself, on the vacillations of Great Power politics—a point

Continued on next page, column 1

* George F. Kennan. *From Prague After Munich*. Diplomatic Papers, 1938-1940. London, 1968; Oxford University Press. 266 pp. 62s.

THIRTY YEARS AFTER MUNICH

Continued from page 1

which Israeli diplomats certainly have not missed.

Attacks on Jewish intellectuals are not a new device. It was used in Czechoslovakia seventeen years ago, together with the accusation of Zionism, in the notorious Slansky trial at the heyday of Stalinism, when Russia herself was shaken by the invention of the so-called doctors' conspiracy, alleging that Jewish doctors of high standing had planned to murder prominent Communists. During the last year the wrath of the official Communist leaders was directed against the few remaining Jews in higher positions because these were suspected of discrediting the Israel policy of the Soviet block. Russia's siding with the Arabs was, of course, dictated not by anti-Jewish sentiment but by Russia's global imperialist policy in the Middle East. It was certainly not only Jews, who in the Communist realm, did not believe this simplified version of the events; but, as we know, public opinion is not articulate in these countries. When the movement in favour of liberalisation emerged with greater vigour within the Communist block, it was blamed on the intellectuals and especially on the Jews among them. This was the case in Poland, where the conservative wing of Communism led by Gomulka, once himself considered a supporter of a more liberal trend, remained in power. Jewish Communists were purged from influential positions.

It was different in Czechoslovakia. In that country with its democratic tradition the wish for liberalisation was widespread, and there are, anyhow, very few Jews left after the Nazi holocaust. But against some of the remaining Jewish intellectuals a clandestine and predominantly anonymous antisemitic leaflet propaganda was conducted. It was exposed in the official Communist newspaper only a few weeks ago, when Professor Eduard Goldstücker, highly esteemed scholar and president of the Writers' Union, published there an obscene anonymous threatening letter he had received.

Goldstücker is a high-minded socialist and Communist thinker, but he is also a link in a chain of a great literary tradition. Before the Nazis exterminated the Jews of Czechoslovakia that country had produced a peculiar type of Jewish intellectual. After their full emancipation in the old Austrian Empire in 1867 the Jews had risen quickly in social and intellectual life. Before the First World War there was a sort of golden age of Jewish creativity; many names of men born in Czech lands became world famous. Jewish writers at that time wrote in German, but—unlike most other Germans—many of them were closely interested in the culture of the awakening Czech nation and were intermediaries who introduced Czech artists into the wider European world of letters (a striking example is Max Brod's discovery of Janacek and Hasek). The strange phenomenon of German literature in Prague has become a subject of study during the last years, perhaps primarily thanks to the endeavours of Goldstücker, who held the chair of German literature at Prague University.

One of the results of these efforts was the International Conference on Franz Kafka held in the vicinity of Prague in 1963, another was a similar conference in 1965, devoted to an all-round survey of the work

of these—predominantly Jewish—writers of fifty years ago. The protocols of these proceedings were published both in Czech and in German. The German version of the last conference appeared only recently under the title "Weltfreunde"†, a name taken from one of the well-known poems of Franz Werfel. The book shows how thoroughly the thirty learned participants at the conference—among them several non-Czechs—had studied the subject up to the most minute details. The general approach of the conference is indicated by the noble words with which Goldstücker concluded his opening speech, hinting at the political implications of such research in a Czech city. He said, in the German version:

"Unseren Vorgängern gegenüber haben wir den Vorteil, dass wir zum ersten Male in der Geschichte der tschechischen Germanistik die unser Fach betreffenden Fragen ohne nationalistische Ressentiments, mit Ehrfurcht vor allen jenen Werten der deutschen Kultur beurteilen können, die das Leben bereichern und den Menschen vernenschlichen. In diesem Geiste verbeugen wir uns vor der grossen Prager deutschen Literatur. . . ."

Many of the lecturers also elaborated on the impact of the Jewishness of the writers, and it is no surprise that they paid special attention to their attitude to social questions. Whether those writers of 1910 could be classified as socialists is a matter of opinion; some of them declared they were. But it is true that in general that generation revolted against the bourgeois society of their fathers and bitterly denounced social injustice and cruelty. They were also horrified by the progressing mechanisation of life, which they regarded as an offence against human dignity, and they passionately called for the supremacy of the spirit. Conscious of the problems implied in their being Jewish, some of them were attracted to Zionism as one of the concepts promising a better world. Their interpreters of 1965 say: these writers understood that an epoch was drawing to its close but they had not yet discovered that a new epoch was on the march. Yet it is only with a feeling of sad irony that one reads today that one has to pity the writers of Franz Kafka's generation because they were not yet in a position to appreciate the happiness which Communism would bring to the world and especially to the—hitherto rootless—intellectuals.

This book is an instructive and moving document which not only reflects an enormous work of research and provides us with many facts which are important also from the point of view of Jewish intellectual history in twentieth-century Europe, but also seems to reveal an element of unconscious nostalgia for a past which will never return, and which, though—like all epochs—unsatisfactory, was after all not so unbearable, at least in comparison with what came afterwards.

† *Weltfreunde*. Konferenz ueber die Prager deutsche Literatur. Herausgegeben von Eduard Goldstuecker. Gemeinschaftsausgabe des Verlags der Tschechoslovakischen Akademie der Wissenschaften und des Hermann Luchterhand Verlags Neuwied 1968. 430 pp. DM. 29,80.

RESTITUTION NEWS

Restitution news is published on page 6

U.K. CITIZENS WITH RESIDENCE ABROAD Effects of New Immigrants Act

A recent case with which I had to deal shows that the extent of the regulations of the new Commonwealth Immigrants Act, 1968, is not as well known as it should be.

Whilst under the preceding Acts the restrictions of entry into the U.K. only applied to Commonwealth citizens, the Commonwealth Immigrants Act, 1968, Section 2, also subjects to immigration control certain categories of U.K. citizens. Broadly speaking, the effects of Section 2 are that a distinction is made between citizens of the U.K. who belong to the U.K. and those who do not.

According to Section 2, a qualifying connection with the U.K. is required in order to exempt a British subject from any immigration control. This qualifying connection is, first of all, residence in the U.K. (Section 2, No. 2 [a]). A further qualifying connection is the residence of a husband or of parents in the U.K.

The result of this important regulation is that holders of U.K. passports who are not resident in this country are subject to immigration control. Whenever such holder of a U.K. passport comes to the U.K., the immigration officer is entitled to impose a condition restricting the period for which such holder may remain in the U.K., with or without permission to take up employment.

There has been a case where a British subject and, therefore, holder of a British passport, daughter of a British father and residing at present in Frankfurt, Germany, was admitted to this country on condition that she does not remain longer than three months. The British Consul at Frankfurt, who had to deal with this case at some later stage, has expressly asked her to make her case known to all people concerned.

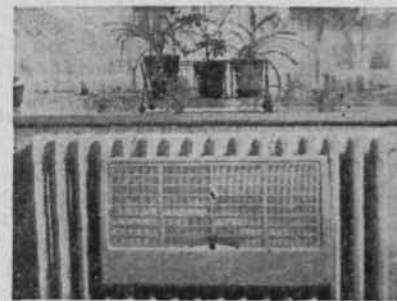
DR. B. MANNES.

EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

In the first eight months of this year, the number of British emigrants to Israel was only 83 below that for the whole of 1967. By the end of August 637 Britons had emigrated, as against a total of 720 in 1967. The present figures for 1968 show an almost uninterrupted monthly growth, and the proportion of professional, academic and technically trained emigrants has risen.

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HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

EXPLOITATION OF BUBER'S NAME

A receiving order has been obtained in the Bankruptcy Court against Mr. Camille Rachmil Honig, the honorary secretary of the International Martin Buber Society and Institute. Philip Dawes & Co. Ltd., a firm of public relations consultants allege that the Society owes them about £1,500. According to Mr. Dawes, this was spent on behalf of Mr. Honig in arranging a testimonial reception in London for two Germans who had risked their lives to save Jews: Herr Oskar Schindler, who attended the reception, and Dr. Gerhard Wolf, who did not.

It was repeatedly stated in this journal that neither the family and friends of Martin Buber nor the organisations of Jews from Germany, including the AJR, had anything to do with the so-called Martin Buber Society. Names of eminent personalities have been used on the Society's letter headings without their permission and, in some cases, without their prior knowledge. According to the *Jewish Chronicle* people listed as vice-presidents or committee members have stated that they had never agreed or that, if Mr. Honig did approach them, they would have given a negative answer. Among them are Igor Stravinsky, Marc Chagall, Gabriel Marcel, Professor Karl Jaspers, André Maurois, Professor Niebuhr, Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs, Arthur Miller and Sir Alec Guinness. Lady Diana Cooper, whose name appeared on the notepaper containing details of the awards, wrote to the *Jewish Chronicle* that Mr. Honig had asked her to join the Committee, which she refused. He next asked her to become treasurer, which she refused "with vehemence". Lord Sorensen wrote to the *Jewish Chronicle* that his name appeared on the Society's notepaper and other documents "despite my repeated, specific and emphatic requests that it be removed".

YOUNG GERMANS' VISIT

Twenty-one young German Christians from the north-German town of Husum came to Britain with Pastor Dieter Schoeneich on a fortnight's visit. Many of them met Jews for the first time in their lives when they were greeted by their hosts, members of the South-West Essex Reform Synagogue, on arrival in London.

Pastor Schoeneich, who brought a group of German Christian youth to the South-West Essex Reform Synagogue two years ago, said that the rise of the N.P.D. since his last visit had brought the German-Jewish problem more to the forefront. While the bulk of the N.P.D. supporters were Nazis, with antisemitic leanings, many N.P.D. voters did not have anti-Jewish feelings, and Pastor Schoeneich claimed that antisemitism, even among the older generation, was on the decrease.

During their visit to Britain the youngsters attended lectures on Jewish history, religion, customs and ceremonies, and on the relationship of Judaism and Christianity. They attended the conference of the youth section of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and visited a number of synagogues and the Wiener Library. A party was held for them at the German Embassy, with Mr. and Mrs. H. Sulzbach as the host; the guests included Mr. E. A. Lomnitz, deputy general secretary of the AJR.

ARAB PROPAGANDA AT MENTAL HEALTH CONGRESS

Many of the 1,500 delegates to the international congress on mental health recently held in London, found anti-Israel propaganda emanating from the Arab League Office in London among the items provided on their chairs. Extracts from "The Arab", the organ of the Arab League Office, contained pictures and descriptions of the plight of refugees in Jordan, intended to testify to alleged Israeli brutality. The few items on other countries among the literature were all factual and innocuous.

Mr. Eric Moonman, the Jewish Labour M.P. for Billericay, who is chairman of the all-party parliamentary committee on mental health and who attended the congress as a guest, strongly protested to the organisers, the World Federation and the National Association for Mental Health. Miss R. S. Addis, secretary of the programme committee of the congress, explained that the items distributed were selected by students to illustrate the theme of the special session dealing with "impact and ideas" in communications. The theme of the programme was that people should make up their own minds and it was to illustrate that point that examples of anti-Israel and other propaganda material were collected and displayed.

MEMORIAL TO SYDNEY SILVERMAN

The Zionist Federation has launched an appeal to raise funds for 10,000 trees for a forest in memory of the former Labour M.P. and communal leader, Mr. Sydney Silverman.

BBC HEBREW SERVICE CLOSURE

Mr. Maurice Foley, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, told a deputation from the Board of Deputies that the Foreign Office could not reconsider its decision to close the BBC Hebrew Service or even to postpone the closure, fixed for October 27. However, he undertook to look into ways of maintaining some form of link between the BBC and Kol Israel.

PROTEST AGAINST FROST-SCHIRACH TV INTERVIEW

Following the David Frost television interview on Friday, September 13, the Council of Jews from Germany and the AJR sent the following telegram to London Weekend Television Ltd.: "We wish to express our protest against the interview with Baldur von Schirach in last Friday's Frost Programme. To interview a leading Nazi who has recently completed twenty years of imprisonment imposed upon him by the Allied War Crimes' Tribunal was in our opinion wrong, and it was deeply wounding to all the survivors from Nazi persecution. We shall be grateful if you will also convey our feelings to Mr. Frost. (Sgd.) W. Breslauer, Council of Jews from Germany, British Section; A. S. Dresel, Association of Jewish Refugees from Germany in Great Britain.

Leo Baeck College Graduates

Two recent graduates of the Leo Baeck College, London, have been ordained as rabbis to take up their new appointments in time for the High Holy-days. German-born Mr. Uri Taemai has been appointed community rabbi of West Berlin, and Mr. Michael Standfield, rabbi of the Bernhard Baron St. George's Jewish Settlement Synagogue in the East End.

Mr. Themal, aged 28, is the first German student at the college to return to his country after ordination. The family lived in hiding during the Nazi régime, settling in Israel after the war, but Mr. Themal returned to Germany to complete his education at Berlin University.

Blind Boy's Achievement

A blind pupil at the J.F.S. Comprehensive School, Camden Town, has gained a place at the London School of Economics. Jeffrey Bashton has passed his G.C.E. "A" levels in three subjects, two of them with distinction. This is the first time in London that a completely blind boy has been a full-time pupil at a secondary school for normal-sighted children.

School Closure

Rabbi S. Pinter, presiding at a special meeting of the honorary officers of the Agudas Israel Organisation of Great Britain, deprecated the enforced closure of the Yavneh Grammar School, Willesden. At a time when there was a lack of adequate religious education facilities in London, the community should not have allowed the institution to close, said Rabbi Pinter. This was the second Jewish school to close in recent months. It would be preferable to support the established educational institutions instead of building large synagogues with vacant seats, said the rabbi.

Sheffield Flatlets

A special meeting of the Sheffield Jewish Representative Council has empowered the executive committee, in co-operation with the United Hebrew Congregation, to proceed with the formation of a housing association to erect a block of flatlets for the elderly.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Goldberg Attacks Russian Antisemitism

In New York Mr. Arthur Goldberg, the former American U.N. representative and Supreme Court judge, made a bitter attack on the Soviet Union and her allies when he was inducted as the 14th president of the American Jewish Committee.

Mr. Goldberg condemned Russia and other East European countries for injecting anti-semitism into the issue of Czechoslovak liberalisation and blaming "Zionism" and Jews for being behind what they described as the "counter-revolutionary forces" in Czechoslovakia. Denouncing the anti-Zionist statements by the Russians, Poles and East Germans, he said that to revive antisemitism in Eastern Europe, "which has been going on for some time, carries a portent of very grave danger."

American Rabbis Visit U.S.S.R.

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, the executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, led a delegation of 15 rabbis on a recent visit to the Soviet Union, where they were warmly welcomed by the Jewish communities of Leningrad and Moscow.

A senior representative of the Soviet Ministry of Cults, Mr. Kadikoff, had a meeting with Rabbi Kelman and three of his colleagues. To a question as to why the Russian Orthodox Patriarch was allowed to maintain contact with fellow-believers abroad and to travel without hindrance while Jewish religious leaders were denied this freedom, Mr. Kadikoff said this was a continuation of an historical practice.

Communists Disagree

Events in Czechoslovakia have badly shaken Jewish members of the American Communist Party, who were already upset by the attitude of the Soviet Union towards Israel during and since the Six-Day War and by its treatment of its Jewish minority. Few Jews within or close to the Party agree with the whitewashing of the Soviet Union and its associated States over the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Gus Hall, the Party secretary, and it is believed that the great majority of the non-Jewish members do not agree with him either.

Negro Antisemitism

The militant Negro community is making threats of violence against Jewish teachers in New York. A leaflet signed by "The Society for the Liberation of the Black Man in America" placed on Jewish teachers' desks and in their cars calls them "Middle East madmen and murderers of colonial peoples" and "bloodsucking exploiters" who cannot be trusted to teach Negro children.

Ex-S.S. Woman in New York

Mrs. Russel Ryan, a New York City woman, was four years ago revealed by Simon Wiesenthal of Vienna as a former supervisor in Nazi concentration and death camps and a member of the S.S. She has now been cited in an American denaturalisation action which could lead to her deportation. The denaturalisation action identifies her as "a cruel and sadistic woman who unnecessarily beat and tortured defenceless prisoners."

The Government bases its case on the fact that Mrs. Ryan, the former Hermine Braunsteiner, concealed a three-year prison sentence and confiscation of her property by an Austrian court in 1949 for torturing and mistreating camp inmates. Her citizenship application also failed to note that she had been a member of the S.S.

She entered the U.S.A. in April, 1959, as the wife of an American she had met while he was working on a building project in Germany, and became an American citizen on January 15, 1963.

SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

After a brief provincial tour Dr. David Kahane, the Chief Rabbi of the Buenos Aires Ashkenazi congregation, reported that observance of the religious laws and of Jewish marriages was in a "deplorable situation", particularly in the small Argentine communities of between 20 and 100 families. He found an apparent shortage of Jewish women in these communities so that marriages between Jewish men and Christian women were quite frequent. Although many of these Christian women agreed to live as Jewesses and bring up their children as Jews, there were very limited opportunities for Jewish education in these small centres. There was no rabbi within hundreds of miles of some of the communities.

CHILE

A bomb explosion broke all the windows of the Jewish High School in Santiago, but no one was hurt. The outrage is believed to be linked with the increasing activities of the Arab League which, until some years ago, maintained its Latin American headquarters in the city. Transferred to Buenos Aires, it was closed by the Chilean Government.

ALGERIAN JEWRY

According to the former president of the Algerian Jewish community, Maître Charles Hababou, who now lives in Paris, Algerian Jewry, once a flourishing and active community, is a fragmented shadow of its former self and will before long be completely assimilated.

In 1963 there were 10,000 Jews in Algeria—today fewer than 700 remain. All synagogues have been shut, with the exception of one in Algiers which usually fails to obtain a minyan. Intensive boycotting of Jewish businessmen has driven many of them out of the country, but little discrimination is directed against Jewish professional men.

IRANIAN EARTHQUAKE

The American Joint Distribution Committee rushed food, medical and other supplies and money to the areas of north-east Iran devastated by earthquakes. The Joint has an office in Teheran, the Iranian capital.

About 80,000 Jews live in Iran, with 53,000 in the capital. As far as could be ascertained there were few, if any, Jewish casualties in the earthquakes since there are no communities in the area.

BIAFRAN SUPPORT

Twenty-five major national Jewish organisations joined to form the "American Jewish Emergency Effort for Biafran Relief", to mobilise support among their members for emergency aid to that country. This is believed to be the first time that American Jewish organisations have joined together for relief efforts for people other than Jews, and reflects the shock that many national Jewish leaders feel at reports that thousands of Biafrans, mostly children, are dying every day. It also recalls memories of the Holocaust.

In Geneva Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the president of the World Jewish Congress, issued an urgent call to all Jewish communities to support the relief work for Biafran war victims.

The rabbinic conference of the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues in a statement issued in London expressing deep shock at the situation, appealed to all members of Liberal synagogues to make "generous personal contributions" to help alleviate the sufferings of Biafrans.

SOUTH AFRICAN SIT-IN

The nine-day sit-in by students at Cape Town and Witwatersrand universities was organised in protest at the compliance by the council of Cape Town University with a demand by the South African Government that the council rescind the appointment to a university post of an African professor.

But a Jewish slant was brought into the matter when Mr. S. L. Muller, the Minister of Police and Internal Affairs, told a students' meeting that, although many of his best friends were Jews and there was no anti-Jewish feeling in South Africa today, according to a list of names in his possession many foreign students in South Africa on exchange programmes were among the leaders of the student unrest. He read out a list of names of South African students of "Jewish extraction". Throughout the years, said Mr. Muller, a large percentage of listed Communists in South Africa had been Jews. He asked the Jewish community to take a firm stand and influence their minors to respect the State.

The South African Board of Deputies protested against the speech and non-Jewish students donned Yellow Stars to show solidarity with their Jewish colleagues. Mr. Muller, in reply, said that he agreed with the Board that the entire Jewish community could not be held responsible for the actions of individual members, but the Jewish community did not stand beyond criticism. The South African Premier, Mr. B. J. Vorster, defended Mr. Muller and urged the Johannesburg Jewish community—and all other parents and children—to be less sensitive to criticism expressed in their own interests by a responsible Minister.

AUSTRALIAN PAPERS CLOSE

After more than 90 years the "Australian Jewish Herald", together with its Yiddish subsidiary the "Jewish Post", has ceased publication. The "Herald" was the recent centre of a storm when the Victorian Board of Deputies accused its publisher of giving space to an anti-Israel columnist.

The chairman of the public relations committee of the Board of Deputies issued a statement regretting the closure of the newspapers, and denying that the Board had at any time adopted a policy of boycott against the "Herald". He alleged that any cancellations of subscriptions or advertisements by organisations or individuals had been brought about as a reaction to the paper's offensive editorials.

ROME RABBI ON POPE'S ENCYCLICAL

The Chief Rabbi of Rome, Professor Elio Toaff, commented on the Pope's encyclical on birth control. He stated that Jewish tradition had already accepted birth control implicitly, by establishing the duty of each couple to bear two children, thus fulfilling their obligation to the Jewish people.

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THE ENCLAVE

Jewish Life in Austria

It cannot happen often that the main asset of a book is its lack of coherence. But the history of a Jewish community first in an empire of enormous dimensions, later within the boundaries of a shrunken, minute republic cannot be anything but incoherent.* *Geschichte in Einzeldarstellungen* must by nature include the story of the narrator as well as the history of group strata and classes. By arranging 34 essays (and a comprehensive bibliography) under such headings as "Life", "Biography and Memoirs", "History" and "Destruction", overlapping for obvious reasons, only an arbitrary order can be established. The book tries to achieve the impossible, namely, a general view. Fortunately it fails. What these three-dozen distinguished authors achieve, however, each of them with brush-strokes of varying vigour and skill, is a picture in clashing colours, and the most vivid, the most penetrating picture imaginable.

The fact that an Austrian Jew finds his own life and brittle fragments of his own soul in every paragraph tends to obscure the real issue: whether these essays on life and destruction of a unique ethnical blend will increase an unbiased historian's understanding or leave him more puzzled than before. Objections against this kind of emotional writing of history will, of course, be raised all the more articulate the more unprejudiced our fictitious objector is. The involved reader cannot see anything but the strange phenomenon he himself is part of—the miracle of conscious survival.

In the editor's noble words, these essays are designed to "restore the freshness of the wilted flowers which once sprouted from the fertile Viennese soil." Later generations will have to find out whether the everlasting, ever-virulent Austrian antisemitism has poisoned the soil for good. And in this context it should be said that for each of the great European names there were many nameless men, shopkeepers and small traders, doctors, lawyers and teachers, who as a collective entity upheld what was once called *Die Mission Oesterreichs*. Their destruction left Austria a thousand times poorer than the loss of her famous refugees, some of whom went back anyway. . . . Hence the deep impact of the three articles about the virtually unknown Jewish communities in Tyrol, Carinthia and Styria. *Der Jud*, in whose cramped stores farmers bought their ploughshares and their seed-corn, was the real hero, because for such honest people life outside Austria had no meaning at all.

It is, of course, not possible to classify the wealth of information—part of it very scholarly indeed—displayed on nearly 600 pages, let alone to judge and distinguish between absolute values and, well, less absolute ones. Highly personal accounts like *Aus der Mappe meiner Urgrossmutter* and *Darstellung einer juedische Jugend in der Wiener Vorstadt*, by Martha Hofmann and Ernst Waldinger, respectively, are marvellously compact and convincing in spite of their pedantic attention to detail or, rather, because of it. (The amiable Frau Dr. Hofmann, however, overdoes it a little. It is irrelevant that both the family's music teachers were hunchbacks,

and a less tolerant editor than Mr. Fraenkel might have objected to somebody calling her *Ein in Schmerzen gereifter Mensch—eine juedische Dichterin in deutscher Sprache*, especially when biographer and subject are one and the same person.)

In Part One ("Life") our imaginary historian will probably find his most valuable information. Richard Grunberger's research into Austro-Jewish journalism, for instance—the most reviled of all Jewish activities—has to my knowledge not been attempted before. He does not try any whitewashing of men like Lippowitz and Alexander Weiss—an impossible task in any case—and still succeeds in giving an over-all picture of fundamentally honest and competent newspapermen. (By the way, Hans Habe was not a contributor to Schreier's *Morgen*, but took over the editorship after Schreier left.) My personal choice of compulsory reading for somebody without any first-hand knowledge would be "Jewish Artists in the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries," by Walter Pillich; Hilde Spiel's "Jewish Women in Austrian Culture" and, last but not least, the editor's own contribution about Chief Rabbi Dr. Gudemann and his relationship to Herzl ("The Chief Rabbi and the Visionary").

In Part Two ("Biography and Memoirs") again, personal preferences must not stand for objectivity, but the late Martin Freud's comment on people in his father's orbit ("Who was Freud?") is a fabric of love and sober assessment so densely woven that it seems the most valuable. Anecdotes like the one about Dr. Bienenfeld and his Teutonic adversary in Court are full of atmosphere, although Martin Freud (deliberately) does not "tell" them.

Part Three ("History") spans so wide a range of subjects—from "Jewish Migratory Movements in Austria in Recent Generations" to *Die Geschichte der Oesterreichischen Wiedergutmachung* (all with statistics and figures)—that it could, and should, be made into a separate book, elaborating on the sharp division between different Jewish communities and including a chapter about the remarkable Jews in Austria's Burgenland.

Part Four is called "Destruction," and the neutral technological term is in itself a typographical image of irrevocable and final disaster. It would be vain to seek or establish literary merits in these four major articles about events, which began with the ignominious stupidity of calling Jewish doctors *Krankenbehandler* by government decree and ended with annihilation. The essays by P. G. J. Pulzer, Robert Schwarz, Norman Bentwich and Herbert Rosenkranz are as scholarly detached as the subject permits, and altogether monuments beyond praise.

"The Jews of Austria" is not an entirely satisfactory book—how could it be?—but a marvellous one.

P.S.—A few inaccuracies (partly in the biographical notes) should be checked in later editions, in order to avoid distress when jubilees come. Dr. Hilde Spiel (page 569) came to London in 1936, but was born earlier, Dr. Brassloff's (p. 397) names are Fritz Lothar and not Franz, and there is no reason to give the names of all great Jewish doctors (pp. 41-67) in the same order as they were called when attending primary school, Mandl Felix, Freud Sigmund, Politzer Adam. . . .

Old Acquaintances

Germany: Paula Wessely will appear in Ibsen's "Ghosts" at Hamburg's Thalia Theater.—Peter Ebert, son of Carl Ebert, is to open Augsburg's opera season with Verdi's "Othello".—Grete Mosheim will star in "Glasmengerie" on T.V.—Zarah Leander will sing in "Wodka fuer eine Koenigin" in Hamburg.—Seventy-eight-year-old Ernst Deutsch, who was recently in "Vor Sonnenuntergang" in Lucerne, will again join Barlog's ensemble in Berlin.—East Berlin's Metropol Theater is to present "White Horse Inn" and Wolf Mankowitz's "Make Me an Offer".—Walther Schmieding, who has been working for German T.V. since 1963, will succeed Paul Loeffler as director of Berlin's Festival; Loeffler is taking over the directorship of Zurich's Schauspielhaus.—Grethe Weiser is starring in Roussin's "Lokomotive" at Berlin's Renaissance-Theater.

Books and Authors: Valerie von Martens is editing "Das grosse Curt Goetz Album", a collection of photographs by her late husband, for Deutsche Verlagsanstalt.—Hilde Spiel's "Rueckkehr nach Wien", a 1946 diary, will be published by Nymphenburger Verlagshandlung.—Frederick Kohner's "Kiki of Montparnasse" will be published by Cassell, London.

Obituary: Fritz Stiedry, the 84-year-old former conductor of the Charlottenburg opera, who survived the war in the States, has died in Zurich.—Christian Morgenstern's widow, Margareta, has died in Breitbrunn.—Bruno Heilig, 80-year-old Ullstein journalist who spent the war years in London, died in East Berlin where he had worked as a German-Hungarian translator since 1948.—The death has occurred, at the age of 94, of Bruno Paul, who started as cartoonist of "Simplizissimus" and then as an architect, and who was, for 26 years, director of Kunstgewerbeschule; he was banned during the Third Reich.—Gerda Maurus, Austrian film star of Fritz Lang's "Spione" and "Frau im Mond", died in Duesseldorf, where she was a member of the stage ensemble; she had originally been married to R. A. Stemmle.

This and That: Seventy-five-year-old Lya Mara, former German film star and widow of director Friedrich Zelnick, who was a producer in England, now lives in Switzerland.—Werner Ackerman, of the well-known chocolate firm, has received the Royal Warrant.

Milestones: Harry Kahn, formerly drama critic of the *Weltbuehne*, now translator of books into German, celebrated his 85th birthday in Lugano.—B. F. Dolbin, the well-known art critic of New York's *Aufbau*, also turned 85; he helped build the Tauern railway, was a member of Karl Kraus's circle, a pupil of the composer Schoenberg and appeared in cabaret before he started his art career.—Berlin-born Herbert Gruenbaum, who several years ago returned to Berlin from Israel, where he helped to put the Chamber Theatre on its feet, is 85; he was a member of the Jewish Kulturbund Theatre.

News from Everywhere: Marlene Dietrich will again appear in her solo show on Broadway next month.—Erich Maria Remarque was made an honorary citizen of Ascona and Ronco, his wife, Paulette Goddard, an honorary citizen of Ronco.—Lion Feuchtwanger's widow, Martha, has withdrawn permission to make a film of "Jud Suess".—Eric Burger, now living in Switzerland, is adapting "The Tenth Man" and Gore Vidal's "Besuch auf einem kleinen Planeten" for German T.V.—Francis (Franz) Lederer is starring in a Czech film in Prague.

PEM

* *The Jews of Austria*. Essays on their Life, History and Destruction. Edited by Josef Fraenkel. Vallentine, Mitchell, London. 600 pp. 63/- net.

ENTSCHAEDIGUNGS- UND RUECKERSTATTUNGSVERFAHREN

Entscheidung des
Bundesverfassungsgerichts

Am 24. Juli 1968 hat das Bundesverfassungsgericht eine Entscheidung erlassen, die weitgehende Beachtung gefunden hat.

Nach dem Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetz (BRueG) in der Fassung vom 19.7.1957 waren rueckerstattungsrechtliche Geldansprueche gegen das Deutsche Reich bis zum 1.4.1959 anzumelden. Die Bestimmungen ueber die Art und Weise der Anmeldung waren nicht in allen fruheren Besatzungszonen identisch und teilweise ziemlich formalistisch. Der Gesetzgeber hatte aber erkannt, dass zahlreiche Beteiligte den Unterschied zwischen Entschaeidungsverfahren und Rueckerstattungsverfahren nicht kannten und daher ihre Ansprueche nur nach Massgabe des Bundesentschaedigungsgesetzes angemeldet hatten. Er hat daher in Par. 30 des erwahnten BRueG die Bestimmung aufgenommen, dass es genuege, wenn eine entschaeidungsrechtliche Anmeldung bis zum 1.4.1959 erfolgt sei.

Da die Bundesregierung auf dem Standpunkt stand, dass mit Par. 30 BRueG Missbrauch getrieben worden sei, so hat sie die gesetzgebenden Instanzen veranlasst, bei Verabschiedung des Dritten Gesetzes zur Aenderung des Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetzes vom 2.10.1964 den erwahnten Paragraphen durch zwei Zusatze zu ergaenzen, dahingehend dass:

(a) die Anmeldung des rueckerstattungsrechtlichen Anspruchs im Entschaeidungsverfahren "irrtuemlich" erfolgt sein muss und

(b) die Anmeldung nur genuegt, wenn aus ihr "die feststellbaren Gegenstaende erkennbar sind, fuer die Ersatz verlangt wird."

Die Bundesregierung hatte diese Bestimmungen lediglich als Klarstellung der alten angesehen. Demgegenueber wurde jedoch geltend gemacht, dass die neuen Vorschriften die Rechte der Verfolgten in einer dem Grundgesetz widersprechenden Weise verkuerzten.

Das Bundesverfassungsgericht hat nun entschieden, dass der Zusatz "irrtuemlich" in der Tat nur eine Klarstellung sei und hat insoweit der von einigen Interessenten bei ihm erhobenen Klage nicht stattgegeben. Dagegen hat es die Beanstandung des zweiten Zusatzes fuer begruendet und demgemaess diesen Teil der Neufassung des Par. 30 fuer verfassungswidrig und daher nichtig erklart.

Die Tragweite dieser Entscheidung wird sich erst nach einiger Zeit ergeben. Die in Zeitungsveroeffentlichungen genannte Zahl von 80.000-100.000 neu aufzunehmenden Faellen ist von der Bundesregierung fuer den Fall angegeben worden, dass der Klage in beiden Punkten stattgegeben werde. So wie die Entscheidung nun lautet, bleibt zunaechst insbesondere abzuwarten, in welchen Faellen die Gerichte annehmen werden, dass die Anmeldung im Entschaeidungsverfahren "irrtuemlich" war.

GESUNDHEITSSCHADENSRENTEN

Wichtig fuer ueber 70 jaehrige fruhere Berliner

Die letzte Fassung der die Gesundheitsschaden betreffenden "Zweiten Verordnung zur Durchfuehrung des Bundesentschaedigungsgesetzes" (datiert 31. Maerz 1966) enthaelt in § 15a eine Neuregelung der Berechnung dieser Renten, die zum Teil zu Erhoehungen, zum Teil zu Verkuerzungen fuehrt. Die Verordnung enthaelt ferner eine Tabelle, die eine Anpassung dieser Renten an den—auch in Deutschland—eingetretenen Fall der Geldentwertung bezweckt; man bezeichnet dies als "lineare Erhoehungen." Schliesslich enthaelt die Verordnung eine Bestimmung, wonach ihr Inhalt nicht zur Kuerzung der bisherigen Bezuege fuehren darf.

Die deutschen Entschaeidungsaeemter, also auch das Entschaeidungsamt in Berlin, haben diese Bestimmungen dahin aufgefasst, dass die Rente zwar auch dann, wenn die Neuregelung des § 15a zu einer Kuerzung fuehren wuerde, in bisheriger Hoehe zu zahlen sei, dass aber in diesen Faellen darueber hinaus eine "lineare Erhoehung" nicht stattfindet. Viele Berechtigte halten diese Auffassung fuer falsch und meinen, dass in solchen Faellen zusaetzlich zur bisherigen Rente die "linearen Erhoehungen" der Verordnung zu zahlen sind. Zahlreiche Bescheide der deutschen Entschaeidungsaeemter sind daher im Prozesswege angefochten worden. Die bisher ergangenen Entscheidungen des Bundesgerichtshofes sind unklar und widerspruchsvoll; wann eine klare Stellungnahme dieses hoechsten Gerichtshofes erfolgen wird, laesst sich nicht vorher-sagen.

Das Berliner Entschaeidungsamt hat nun—in dem Geiste, der dieses Amt seit der Zeit des verstorbenen Senators Lipschitz beherrscht, und unterstuetzt durch eine Entscheidung des Kammergerichts—folgendes beschlossen: Wenn der Berechtigte ueber 70 Jahre alt ist, so sollen, unbeschadet der grundsaeztlichen streitigen Rechtsfragen, auch die "linearen Erhoehungen" zusaetzlich zur bisherigen Rente gezahlt werden, selbst wenn das Amt fruher eine unguenstige Entscheidung getroffen hat. Entscheidungen im Sinne dieser neuen Praxis liegen bereits vor.

Das Entschaeidungsamt hat aber darauf hingewiesen, dass in solchen Faellen die ueber 70 jaehrigen Berechtigten sich bei ihm besonders melden sollen. Es ist nicht moeglich, aus der grossen Zahl der gerade in Berlin vorliegenden Faelle diese Faelle von Amts wegen herauszusuchen.

Bemuehungen, die Berliner Praxis nach Westdeutschland auszudehnen, sind im Gange.

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LASTENAUSGLEICH

Annahme des 20. Aenderungsgesetzes

In unserer Ausgabe vom Mai 1968 wurde der Entwurf des 20. Aenderungsgesetzes zum Lastenausgleichsgesetz dargestellt. Dieser Entwurf ist nunmehr mit einigen Aenderungen angenommen und im Bundesgesetzblatt Teil I vom 15. Juli 1968 veroeffentlicht worden. Das Gesetz ist am 19. Juli 1968 in Kraft getreten.

Eine der Abweichungen vom Entwurf liegt darin, dass infolge der langen Beratung vor Erlass des Gesetzes die Fristen verschoben wurden. Die Antragsfrist fuer die Schadenfeststellung laeuft nicht, wie im Entwurf vorgesehen, am 30. Juni 1968 sondern erst am 31. Dezember 1970 ab. Das Gesetz sieht vor, dass die Antraege auf Hauptentschaedigung und Hausratentschaedigung, gleichgueltig ob es zur rechtzeitig beantragten Feststellung gekommen ist oder nicht, nur bis zum Ablauf von zwei Jahren nach der oben genannten Frist, d.h. nur bis zum 31. Dezember 1972, gestellt werden koennen.

Diese Fristen beziehen sich auf Entziehungen in Gebieten, fuer die bereits Lastenausgleichsleistungen vorgesehen sind, d.h. auf das Gebiet der jetzigen Bundesrepublik und die sogenannten Vertreibungsgebiete. Schaeden im Gebiete der jetzigen Bundesrepublik duerften, sofern sie von Opfern der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung erlitten wurden, in der Regel im Zusammenhang mit den Rueckerstattungsverfahren abgegolten sein. Es bleiben daher, wie bereits in dem Aufsatz vom Mai 1968 ausgefuehrt wurde, im wesentlichen Schaeden anzumelden, die durch nationalsozialistische Entziehung in den sogenannten Vertreibungsgebieten entstanden waren, d.h. in den jetzt polnischen oder sowjetischen Teilen des ehemaligen Reiches (Schlesien, Pommern, Ostpreussen), sowie in der Tschechoslowakei, Polen, Ungarn und Rumaenien.

Fuer Schaeden im Gebiete der jetzigen D.D.R. sind Lastenausgleichsleistungen bisher nicht vorgesehen. Hierzu bedarf es eines besonderen Gesetzes. Wohl aber sieht das Beweissicherungs- und Feststellungsgesetz (BFG) vom 22. Mai 1965 die Moeglichkeit vor, die Feststellung von Schaeden in diesem Gebiet zu beantragen. Die Einzelheiten dieses Feststellungsverfahrens wurden in "A.J.R. Information," August 1968, dargestellt. Waehrend aber zur Zeit der Veroeffentlichung dieses Aufsatzes eine Anmeldefrist noch nicht bestand und auch im Entwurf des 20. Aenderungsgesetzes LAG nicht vorgesehen war, bestimmt die endgueltige Fassung des 20. Aenderungsgesetzes, dass die Feststellung bis zum 31. Dezember 1972 beantragt werden muss.

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Egon Larsen

PRAGUE—AUTUMN, 1938

"Telegram for you," says Susanne as she opens the door. She is terribly curious to know what it says, and looks over my shoulder as I open the envelope.

"Ring immediately Berthold *Prager Tagblatt*," says the telegram. We have no telephone, and I have to go down to the cake shop to ring Dr. Berthold.

It is a warm and sunny day, typical of this radiant, golden autumn in Prague. Around the new block of flats where we live a whole host of mothers have brought their babies out. It is a pity that the benches have been taken away from the little square to make room for the trenches. Susanne and I have discussed the question whether it would be safer to go into the cellar or into these trenches—she's for the cellar, I for the trenches. If war breaks out before we come to an agreement we'll have to experience our first air-raid apart from each other.

The children like the trenches and are playing in them; their satchels lie on the breastwork like sandbags. They play at being Czechs, Germans, Russians, Frenchmen. For them the war has already begun.

"Can you help me out today?" asks Berthold on the 'phone. "I need some stories for my agency in London. Things are getting pretty hot."

"Yes, of course, I'll just have a cup of coffee at home, and then I'll come." I buy some of the delicious pastries in which this shop specialises. It seems odd that one can still get them, so near the war.

Susanne and I play a game of chess while we eat and drink. We both play abominably, but it helps to drive from our minds the nagging thoughts about Hitler and the crisis—or does it? "When I've won a game I feel much happier about things," she says. In fact, the chessmen seem to take the places of the political figures of the day, and the latest incident may look something like this: *K. to B.'s 1st—Q. takes B.Ch.* We are saturated with the crisis, with politics, with the thought of war. I am worried about Susanne. I know she can't bear noise and explosions; but she will not run away from it all, even if she could. Like the rest of us she would prefer the sirens and the bombs to hearing Prague Radio blaring out the Horst Wessel Song, like that March week-end when we tuned in to Vienna.

The news sheets are piling up on Berthold's desk. "Try to make a story for London out of this," he says, and I sit down at the typewriter. The news is appalling. One frontier incident after another. Hitler seems determined to provoke the Czechs into retaliating. But the most intolerable provocation comes from inside the Czechoslovak borders, from the Sudeten German Nazis. Czech policemen and civilians have been killed, customs officers dragged across the frontier into Germany, Sudeten German Socialists beaten up and tortured. At one or two points German soldiers are already fighting side by side with Henlein's Nazis. One message after another tells of people killed, wounded, kidnapped. Then, suddenly, the flow of news stops. One of the *Tagblatt* stenographers appears at the door.

"We can't get through to Karlsbad and Reichenberg any more," he says, wiping the sweat from his forehead. "The bastards must have cut the wires." But there are two more messages from the Czechoslovak news agency, from Prague. Henlein's party has broken off negotiations with Benes's government. Martial

law has been declared in eight frontier districts.

We look at each other in silence. This could mean war—war today. At this moment, perhaps, the bombers are already starting from somewhere near Dresden. I hope Susanne, alone in the flat, won't listen to the news on the radio. It would frighten her no end.

But Berthold and I are journalists; news, however depressing it may be, is first of all a cue for action. And a good thing, too; it leaves us no time for brooding. "See what things look like in the streets," he says, and I set out.

A human river presses forward on the pavement in the Wenzelsplatz. There are whirlpools around the news vendors; people form groups, everybody talks to everybody. "He'd be mad to attack us," I hear someone say. "The whole world would be against him!" There are shouts at one corner: "Long live our army! Long live our President Dr. Benes!" They are so polite, the Czechs; even now they never omit his title.

The diplomatic quarter of the town is quiet. Ten white horses, belonging to the mounted police, nibble their supper-time oats outside the British legation; the policemen are patting the animals' necks. Others sit on a bench in front of the French embassy, playing with the caretaker's children. The shutters of the German legation have been lowered.

There is a group of poorly dressed peasants outside the Masaryk railway station. The men carry cardboard boxes, the women bedding. They are Sudeten German refugees: Social Democrats, Communists, or people who have for some other reason aroused the wrath of their Nazi neighbours. I listen to their stories; so do the Czechs around them. They know there are two kinds of Sudeten Germans: these poor refugees who have been driven out of their homes and villages, and the other kind—Hitler's fifth column. Someone collects money in his hat and gives it to the oldest of the group. "Nimm's, Vater," he says simply. "It's not charity. We owe you people a debt. You've defended our Republic." Another Czech bystander asks, "What did the Nazis tell you about us?" The refugees grin awkwardly. "They told us that all the Germans in Prague were being killed off, and we'd be sent to a concentration camp if we came here." Everybody laughs. Sausages, sweets for the children appear out of nowhere. But some women are crying.

Back at Berthold's office a new pile of messages has accumulated. General Beck, German Chief of Staff, has resigned. Demonstrations in Downing Street. Roosevelt returns to Washington, the King to London. Hitler holds a Council of War in Munich. Is it starting now? We can't get through to London by telephone; Germany has stopped all transit communications. But Dr. Berthold has a call from the Hotel Ambassador, headquarters of the international press in Prague. The *Times* correspondent seems to have a bit of news for him. He says "Yes" and "I see" a few times, and then the pipe falls out of his mouth. "Wha-a-at?" he cries. "Are you sure?" I have never seen him so excited.

He hangs up. "Chamberlain," he says, "Chamberlain—he's flying to Hitler!"

If this is true it is certainly the crowning sensation of the day. And it is true. Ten minutes later, the press agency confirms it. We heave sighs of relief. So the British Prime

Minister flies into the lion's den to tell him in unmistakable terms: if you attack Czechoslovakia, the whole world will fight you. After all, that's the only thing he can say, isn't it? "I don't know," says Berthold. "I'm not so sure—"

We all meet in the room of the *Prager Tagblatt* editor, Rudi Thomas. He lies on a couch. *Tagblatt* journalists, correspondents, all sorts of press people are standing and sitting about, discussing the news. Many are refugees from Germany, most of them Jews. The morning edition has been "put to bed," and we are waiting for the first copies.

"So there may be no war after all," says someone.

"It wouldn't be the worst thing to happen, war," someone else answers. "We may all be thrown out of the Republic."

"And who's going to throw us out?"

"The Czechs."

"What? Now? Now that we all have the same enemy—Hitler?"

"They'll settle with Hitler, and then we German democrats and you emigrants can all pack up."

"So what," I say. "It sounds improbable, but it still would not be the end of the world. You can emigrate along with us, you for the first time, we for the second."

Rudi Thomas smiles sadly. "I shall not emigrate. I won't be a bottle-washer in New York or a shoe-shine boy in Buenos Aires. What's the good of a life like that? I don't believe we shall see things coming right again in our time. I admire your optimism. As far as I'm concerned, I'd rather kill myself."

When I get home, Susanne is already in bed. I bring her the wonderful news of Chamberlain's flight red-hot. It's the *Tagblatt* headline, of course. She is wildly happy. She jumps out of bed. We drink a slivovitz toast to Mr. Chamberlain, and then we play another game of chess.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN EXODUS

There are about 14,000 Jews in Czechoslovakia and, of these, it is estimated that 1,500 have left the country since the Soviet invasion. Dr. Eduard Goldstuecker, until recently chairman of the Czechoslovak Writers' Association, vice-rector of Charles University in Prague, and Czechoslovakia's first Minister to Israel in 1949-50, is among the Jews who have arrived in Vienna, together with his family.

Professor Ota Sik, who initiated Czechoslovakia's economic liberation, was attacked in "Pravda", which printed a letter casting indirect aspersions on him for his Jewish origins. Dr. Frantisek Kriegel, a member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party presidium and former chairman of the National Front, is another Jew forced from office by the Russians. Detained by the Russians with Mr. Dubcek after the invasion, he was later present with Mr. Dubcek at President Svoboda's talks in Moscow. Unlike the other Czech leaders he refused to sign the Moscow agreement because he considered it as capitulation.

The Polish press has attacked Jews for their "counter-revolutionary and revisionist theories" and for having been behind the Czechoslovak liberalisation movement.

Anglo-Jewish organisations are making a joint effort to assist Czech Jews who have decided to remain in Britain. They include the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation, the Jewish Refugees Committee, the Leo Baeck Lodge of B'nai B'rith and the Hillel Foundation. London families have offered accommodation to Czech students and efforts are being made to find places for them in British universities. There were about 3,000 Czech citizens in Britain at the time of the Russian invasion. In Vienna, many Czechoslovak Jews applied to the American Distribution Office for various forms of assistance.

Alfred Laurence

SIR KARL POPPER

Portrait of an Independent Thinker

When Sir Karl Raimund Popper gave the Compton Memorial Lecture at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, on April 21, 1965, he was introduced with a reference to "the authority of his towering learning and achievements in science and philosophy." The chairman of the department of philosophy went on: "Any topic he might have chosen for discussion would, we know from his works, have been illumined for us by an intelligence as incisive and a clarity of expression as marked as any available in the world of learning."

The Compton Lecture, meanwhile published as "Of Clouds and Clocks," is only a very brief summary of what is contained in the many volumes published by Professor Popper since his first paper on the philosophy of education written in 1925 for the Pedagogical Institute of the City of Vienna. All men of learning can read his works in the major languages of the world, including Arabic and Japanese. His main fields of interest cover the philosophy of science and theory of knowledge, as well as axiomatic and interpretations of the calculus of probability, language, philosophy, history, sociology and the theory of evolution. He discussed determinism with Einstein and "did not find him adamant," and has been professor of logic and scientific method in the University of London since 1949. When his famous work, "The Poverty of Historicism," was first published here, Arthur Koestler wrote in the "Sunday Times" of it as "probably the only book published this year which will outlive this century." The "Festschrift," published in 1962, in honour of his sixtieth birthday, is a volume of 480 pages, with contributions by no less than 29 well-known authorities, who are his former pupils or friends. Yet—how few of us know Sir Karl and his work and fame?

"Wir sollen uns nicht wichtig nehmen!" he warned, when he learned of the idea of a brief article on his current ideas—and modesty appears to have been his Leitmotiv since his early youth, when he began his studies at the age of 16 at the university of his native Vienna. To complete his education he also worked, as a young man, as a carpenter's apprentice and qualified as a skilled carpenter while doing, at the same time, social work in the working-class quarters of the Austrian capital. His first published book—"Logik der Forschung," 1934—started his Schrodinger and Einstein correspondence, but Moritz Schlick, Carnap, Heinrich Gomperz and the psychologist, Karl Buehler, had befriended him even earlier, and Hayek and Lord Robbins, of the London School of Economics, as well as Niels Bohr, took an interest in his work even before he first came to London and Copenhagen in 1935 and 1936.

"I really wanted to leave Austria and become an international scholar already in 1927, long before Hitler and his followers would have actually forced me to abandon my academic career at home in Vienna," the professor commented. His parents, the solicitor, Simon Popper, of Vienna, and his wife, Jenny (née Schiff) belonged to the Viennese bourgeoisie, but the Socialism of his early youth led him to identify himself with the workers of his country and the international Socialist movement and to approve for a short time even violent resistance against Hitler's Fascist gangsters. But although he jokingly

calls his wife, Josefine Anna (née Henninger)—a colleague from the Vienna Pedagogic Institute, whom he married in 1930—a "displaced person," Professor Popper himself did not come to England as a refugee.

Yet, ethnologically he identifies himself with the Jewish immigrants to this country from Central Europe and gladly acknowledges his gratefulness and admiration for Great Britain, he calls English history "the greatest success story" and the British monarchy extremely important for the stability of English life. He has remained a staunch anti-Fascist to the present day, also an adversary of Franco and of all racialism. But, at the same time, he has for many decades written at great length against Marxism and opposed Stalin and Mao—without, however, opposing violently life in the present-day U.S.S.R. "What really is Communism," he asks, and quotes some lines from the American poet, Robert Frost, in favour of "half-revolution" and "revolution only in the mind": ever since his experiences with practical Socialist bureaucracy in his youth in Vienna he has remained extremely critical of immature revolutionary efforts and preferred the methods of Anglo-Saxon democracy.

"The term 'capitalism' had an entirely different meaning in Karl Marx's time—today the Trade Union Congress in England represents much more power than all British capitalists combined!"

What does the professor think of the students' revolts? "They should study, not engage in politics. They want a part in academic administration, but do they know anything of the dreariness of the task they are facing? Do they understand the real problems of their education?" Of course, people ought to be activists and should vote, but he knows only few really worthwhile politicians—and among the other kind he classifies General de Gaulle. Winston Churchill, who offered the French in their gravest hour full union with Britain, was a sincere politician who continued to learn new facts all through his life—the same cannot be said for the French President in his recent stand against Britain and the United States, the very countries to whom France owes her survival.

Professor Popper remained an anti-Zionist until the factual creation of the State of Israel. But now that the *status quo* has been definitely changed and a new generation of Israelis, born in the ancient land, has grown up to be more important than the original Jewish immigrants, he thinks that Israel is a home more for the Jewish Israelis than for the remaining Arabs, and opposes the violence of Arab politicians like Nasser and Arab nationalism altogether—although he has contributed to the relief efforts for Arab refugees.

Non-violence is his foremost creed—he is an admirer of Ghandi, and concedes that religions are needed by great masses of people. Yet, his belief does not include the anthropomorphic idea of a "maker" of this universe—without being atheist he still remains overawed by the immense infinity of knowledge in our cosmos and has written beautifully about his "indeterminism," as well as about rationalism and our never-ending task to try to be rationalist: both Spinoza and Freud erred in their judgements about our emotions, Spinoza by underrating them, Freud by overrating their part in our spiritual make-up.

Each time a new idea comes up in conversation, the professor has another amusing story to tell, a smile ready to offer a sharp, yet non-offensive comment. There is all the charm of Vienna about the slim, small man from the Austrian metropolis who has become one of the great spiritual leaders of Western science and philosophy and whose books will still be read for many decades after our generation of more or less displaced persons will have been called away. We can be immensely proud to know that Sir Karl Raimund Popper has been one of us. Of course, he would be the last to admit any pride—"Ich bitt' Sie, wen sollen wir fuehren? Wohin? Wozu? Wer will gefuehrt werden von uns? Sich nur nicht wichtig nehmen. . . ."

Thanks for the message, Sir Karl—we shall remember.

GERMANY TODAY

Limitation Law

The representative council of West German organisations of victims of Nazism and the Central Council of Jews in Germany have issued a call for the introduction of a law abolishing the statute of limitation. Under the present law no proceedings can be taken against Nazi criminals after December 31, 1969.

Dr. Gustav Heinemann, the Minister of Justice, stated that as long as only the Social Democratic Party supports a law abolishing the statute of limitation for murder or postponing its application, it is useless to submit such legislation to the West German Parliament. He personally is in favour of such legislation.

The Minister of Justice of Schleswig-Holstein, Herr Gerhard Gaul, has attacked the demands for abolition of the statute. The West German judiciary had done everything in its power in past years to find and prosecute all Nazi criminals, said Herr Gaul. Between 1945 and 1967 inquiries into the activities of about 77,000 people had been conducted. During that period a total of 6,192 people had been sentenced for crimes committed in the Nazi era, and 17,000 persons were still under investigation at the beginning of this year, he pointed out.

N.P.D. in Berlin

The National Democratic Party's attempt to rally support in West Berlin drew little support. For its first public manifestation the party chose the seventh anniversary of the building of the Berlin wall to hold a protest march. This was disrupted by about 1,000 anti-Nazis who turned out in reply to a call from the West German Labour Federation, which denounced the N.P.D. as the "successor party to the Nazis".

Atom Aid Denied

Egyptian press reports that West Germany is aiding Israel in building atom bombs, have been denied by the Bonn Foreign Ministry. A spokesman said that West Germany is not helping Israel or any other Middle East country to produce atomic weapons or is supplying arms to any of these States. The spokesman pointed out that these allegations had been raised in some East German circles recently. He emphasised that the 140 million marks (about £14½ million) provided by the West German-Israel economic agreement this year would be spent only on civilian projects in the Jewish State.

Proceedings Against Publisher Dropped

Proceedings have been dropped against Dr. Gerhard Frey, the publisher and editor of the extremist weekly, "Deutsche National-Zeitung and Soldaten-Zeitung". In July last year the paper published a front-page photograph of Hitler, accompanied by a rabidly anti-Israel article accusing the Jewish State of Nazi-like atrocities. The issue of the paper was seized by the police and Dr. Frey was charged with disseminating a Nazi symbol.

The Munich High Court ruled that the case must be dropped because of the latest amnesty regulations.

OBITUARIES

MR. JULIUS J. FEIG

Mr. Julius J. Feig died recently at the age of 84. He was associated with the work of the AJR since its inception, first as a Committee Member of the AJR Richmond Group, which for several years held regular local meetings in the district, and later as a member of the Board. His contacts with our activities were strengthened anew when his late wife, Dr. Edith Feig, became a House Committee Member of Otto Hirsch House (Kew). Mr. Feig and his family arrived in this country only a few days before the outbreak of war. In Berlin, where he had lived before, he was a partner of the old-established cigar factory of I. Neumann. A widely interested, unassuming and helpful personality, he will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him.

DR. FALK SCHLESINGER

Dr. Falk Schlesinger, Director of Shaare Zedek General Hospital, died in Jerusalem at the age of 72. Born in Hamburg, he came from a family of teachers and religious leaders. He graduated at Berlin University and, together with a colleague, opened a private hospital in that city. With the rise of Nazism he went with his wife and children to settle in Jerusalem where he continued his medical work. In 1947 he was appointed director of Shaare Zedek Hospital and in spite of great financial difficulties succeeded in bringing the hospital on a par with modern medical standards. Dr. Schlesinger took a special interest in the development of the Shaare Zedek Institute for Medical Halachic Research.

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR DR. F. GOLDSCHMIDT

The widespread sense of loss felt after the death of Dr. F. Goldschmidt was reflected in the large attendance at the meeting held in his memory on August 20 in the hall of the New Liberal Jewish Congregation. Professor Norman Bentwich, who was in the chair, described Dr. Goldschmidt as one of the outstanding representatives of German Jewry with its blend of general and Jewish cultural attainments. Dr. Arthur E. Kaufmann recalled the deceased's bonds of friendship and loyalty with the K.C. students' fraternity, a movement which can only be properly assessed in context with the situation of Jewish students prevailing at the German universities. Dr. Henry Minden paid tribute to Dr. Goldschmidt's work for the B'nai B'rith both in pre-war Germany and in this country, especially as the first president of the Leo Baeck (London) Lodge. Dr. Werner Rosenstock spoke on behalf of the Council of Jews from Germany and of the AJR, and also recalled the personal courage displayed by Dr. Goldschmidt under the Nazi régime as a leading official of the Reichsvertretung and the Central-Verein. Mr. Adolph G. Brotman, Vice-Chairman of U.R.O., stated that the efforts of Dr. Goldschmidt in the field of restitution and compensation had decisively helped to ease the position of the victims of Nazi persecution. The dignified function was opened and concluded by recitals rendered by Mr. Paul Blumenfeld ('cello) and Mr. Paul Lichtenstern (organ).

ROUND AND ABOUT

EAST GERMAN SENTENCES

According to West Berlin reports, a Rostock court has sentenced Paul Brekenfelder, a former S.S. sergeant and guard at Sachsenhausen concentration camp, to hard labour for life for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

An announcement in East Berlin states that Kurt Wachholz, a former Gestapo official and supervisor at Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia during the war, has been arrested in East Germany and charged with crimes against humanity respecting Jewish ghetto inmates. It was emphasised that the arrest was the result of joint inquiries by the Czech and German authorities to prosecute alleged Nazi criminals.

RUMANIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION DAY

Rumania's Chief Rabbi, Dr. David Moses Rosen, whilst on a recent private visit to London from Bucharest, pledged full support to President Nicolai Ceausescu of Rumania. Dr. Rosen cabled the gratitude of the Jewish population of Rumania for their religious freedom and equality of rights and assured the President of the Jewish community's abiding loyalty. The occasion was the anniversary of the national liberation of Rumania.

SYNAGOGUE IN THE HAGUE

The Liberal Jewish congregation of The Hague has acquired the former Sephardi Synagogue in the Princessegracht, built in 1726 by the famous architect, Clement Marot. The synagogue has been closed since 1945, except for an occasional wedding or barmitzvah. The few Sephardim still resident in The Hague have worshipped at the Ashkenazi Synagogue.



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ANGLO-GERMAN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING ON

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at 8 p.m. at the

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DR. JOSEF NEUBERGER

Minister of Justice of the Land
Nordrhein-Westfalen
will give a lecture (in German)
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GERMAN JEWRY'S RESISTANCE

Sir,—In his review of the book by Arnold Paucker about Jewish defence activities under the Weimar Republic (August, 1968), Mr. Larsen deals only very briefly with the efforts of the "Reichsbund juedischer Frontsoldaten" and the K.C. Mr. Paucker's book carries a detailed description of the fight of the K.C. against the steadily growing menace of the Nazis at the universities. Members of the K.C. defended the honour of Jewry in the way customary at German universities. When this became impossible because their adversaries declined to take up challenges for duels, the K.C. organised special courses in boxing and other methods of self-defence. Mr. Paucker also states that a special chapter of a study of the history of the K.C., written by the undersigned, deals with the activities of the K.C. during the period 1926-1932.

Yours, etc.,
ADOLPH ASCH.

London, S.W.19.

DE GAULLE, DOUBLE LOYALTIES AND AJR

Sir,—It was with some amusement that I read Mr. F. W. Ury's "cri de coeur" in your latest issue. Up to now I was under the impression that the species of the brotherhood of trembling Israelites had gone out with the Dodo.

Amongst the many things which all of us should have learned by living in this country is surely the lesson that in a civilised society a man has many loyalties. To deny this means playing into the hands of those who proclaim a monolithic conception of the state.

Yours, etc.,
DR. H. N. FELD.

London, N.W.3.

DR. PAUL ZUCKER 80

The architect, Dr. Paul Zucker (New York), recently celebrated his 80th birthday. In Berlin, where he lived until 1937, he was in charge of the erection of many well-known buildings, among them the headquarters of the Berlin Medical Association. He also lec-

tured at the "Staatliche Hochschule fuer Bildende Kunst" and at the "Lessing-Hochschule". In New York he first lectured at the New School for Social Research and later at a number of other institutes of higher education.

HELP CZECH REFUGEES!

As reported on page 7 of this issue, the Jewish Refugees Committee, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1, is actively rendering assistance to Czech students and tourists who do not wish to return to their country and also to an increasing number of refugees who have fled from there. There is an immediate need for hospitality or accommodation at nominal rates. Moreover, quite a number of these new refugees are very hopeful that they will be granted permission to take up employment in this country and are interested in suitable jobs. Apart from young people of both sexes, the Jewish Refugees Committee is trying to help couples and members of broken-up families.

Those willing to assist are urgently requested to contact the above-mentioned Committee.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 18th of the month.

Birthday

Scheinberger.—Mrs. Franziska Scheinberger (née Oppenheim), of Heinrich Stahl House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2 (formerly Hamburg), will celebrate her 90th birthday on September 24.

Weiss.—The AJR Club expresses its very best wishes to Mrs. Lily Weiss, of 8 Douglas Waite House, 13 Priory Road, London, N.W.6, who celebrated her 70th birthday on September 11th.

Marriage

Gould-Herz.—On September 8th at the synagogue, St. Gallen, Switzerland, John Gould, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Gould, of 18 Old Manor Court, Abbey Road, London, N.W.3, to Miss Irene Herz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Herz, of Dierauerstrasse 2, St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Golden Wedding

Graetz.—Dr. med. Martin Graetz and Mrs. Johanna Charlotte (née Jacoby), Kreisaltersheim Weil am Rhein, D 7858 Weil am Rhein, Eimeldinger Str., 55, W. Germany, celebrated their Golden Wedding on September 19.

Deaths

The AJR Club mourns the death of its members: **Mrs. Gisella Gutman**, of 96 Hillsborough Court, London, N.W.6, and **Mr. Martin Rosenthal**, of 50 Barrington Court, London, N.W.11.

Apt.—Mrs. Charlotte Apt (née Kohn), of Morris Feinmann Home, Spath Road, Manchester, 20 (formerly Berlin), passed away peacefully on September 17th. Deeply mourned by her husband, Max Apt, children Eva Baer (Jerusalem) and Ilse Meyer (Madison, U.S.A.), sons-in-law and five grandchildren.

Distelburger.—Mr. Moses Distelburger, of 63 Corringham Road, London, N.W.11, passed away peacefully on August 22nd. Deeply mourned by his daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Feig.—Mr. Julius J. Feig, of 34 Brookwood Avenue, London, S.W.13, passed away in his 84th year after a sudden heart attack. Deeply mourned by his daughter, Mrs. Vajifdar, and her family.

Fuchs.—Dr. phil. Clara Charlotte Fuchs, 37 Chiswick Village, London, W.4 (formerly Stuttgart), passed away suddenly in Israel on August 24. Deeply mourned by her sisters and families and friends.

Heichelheim.—Mr. A. M. Heichelheim, of 10 Hodford Road, London, N.W.11 (formerly Geissen), passed away peacefully on August 17th aged 65, after three months' illness. Deeply mourned by his loving wife, son and daughter.

Lowenstein.—Mr. Ernst Leo Lowenstein (formerly Eisenach and Berlin), died unexpectedly on August 24. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his son and daughter-in-law.

Post.—Mr. Joseph Post (formerly Postakiewicz, of Breslau), 1 Middlesborough Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, passed away. Deeply mourned by his wife, Rebecca, and his friends.

Reis.—Mrs. Lisbeth Reis (formerly Ring, née Engel), of Osmond House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2, passed away on September 7th. Deeply mourned by her family and friends.

Schiff.—Mr. Max Schiff, of 129 Kent Street, Epping, N.S.W., Australia (formerly Berlin), passed away suddenly after a heart attack. Deeply mourned by his widow, brother and sister-in-law.

Warschauer.—Mrs. Gertrud Warschauer (née Casper), widow of the late Rabbi Dr. M. Warschauer, of Sunnyside, Salisbury Road, Woking, Surrey, passed away on August 22 in her 76th year.

Wolff.—Dr. Oswald Wolff, of 7 Lyndhurst Road, London, N.W.3, passed away suddenly on September 14th. Deeply mourned by his wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandsons.

CLASSIFIED Situations Vacant

Women

EXPERIENCED COOK REQUIRED twice weekly, private household, St. John's Wood district, 10s. per hour. Box 976.

COMPANION - HOUSEKEEPER required for my mother, aged 81, in pleasant, easily run, centrally heated house, Torquay area; preferably able to drive small (Morris 1000) car which is available for private and holiday use; cleaning woman employed. Please reply in detail to Box 978.

WOULD CAPABLE kind, educated lady run modern centrally heated home, Midlands, for Jewish graduate, widower, professional, 41 years, with intelligent, well-mannered 10-year-old daughter. Box 985.

LADY aged 45-60 required to take charge of widower's house, North of England. Daily help kept. Own separate suite. Some entertaining. Teenage children home during holidays. Box 986.

Accommodation Vacant

JEWISH ORGANISATION in Finchley Road area; has 4 to 6 rooms to let for organisational purposes. Enquiries to Box 977.

SELF-CONTAINED, ground-floor, furnished flat; bedroom, lounge, bath/kitchen, w.c., garden; centrally heated; Edgware, near tube, buses, shops, etc. Box 981.

EASTSIDE HOUSE for elderly people; adequate night and day nursing; fees 36/38 gns. per week. Eastside House Ltd., 24 Eastside Road, London, N.W.11. 'Phone: 01-455 4624.

TO LET, modern, sunny comfortable room, centrally heated, full board, very good food, TV lounge, suit retired people, references desired. 'Phone: VIR. 9683.

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FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED ROOMS with cooking facilities, preferably in the North-Western districts of London, required for single, elderly people. AJR Social Services Department, 'phone MAIDA VALE 4449.

CONTINENTAL LADY seeks luxury accommodation, either rent room or share flat; central heating essential. Box 980.

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Personal

MY FRIEND, attractive widow, would like to meet gentleman between 60-70 for companionship, possibly matrimony. Box 979.

DOCTOR, retired but still partly active, wishes to meet lady, object matrimony. Box 982.

WIDOWER, 60, no children, with comfortable home in Devon, secure position, would like to make the acquaintance of lady in her 50s, object matrimony. Box 983.

WIDOW, late 50s, young looking, would like to meet gentleman in his 60s, who is interested in having a home again. Object matrimony. Box 984.

WIDOWER, German origin, 47 years of age, 5 ft. 4 in. tall, living in N.W. London, own house, wishes to meet lady up to 45 years of age, object friendship and eventual marriage. Box 987.

MISSING PERSONS

AJR Enquiries

Sander.—Dr. E. L. Sander, last known address 131 Harehills Lane, Leeds, 8, formerly Hoechst-Frankfurt/Main.

W. Rosenstock

DACHAU PILGRIMAGE

Delegations from 15 countries attended the unveiling ceremony of the Dachau Memorial on September 8. There was no barrier between East and West, and among the countries represented were Yugoslavia, Hungary and Eastern Germany. A special welcome was extended to the delegates from Czechoslovakia. The Council of Jews from Germany and the AJR were represented by the writer.

Most of the participants were either themselves ex-prisoners of Dachau or had made the pilgrimage in memory of close relatives who perished in the camp. For all of them the visit to the site, for twelve years a place of suffering, but also of untold courage, was an unsurpassable experience. Survivors located the areas where they had worked as slaves and where their barracks once stood. Each of them had to tell a story of his own. And yet, the predominant feeling was not one of bitterness or emotional excitement but of pride—and of gratitude for having been permitted to live to see this day. There were also many personal reunions of former comrades now living in different countries.

The ceremonies were opened by religious services in the small memorial buildings of the three denominations. The service in the beautiful synagogue was conducted by Rabbi H. I. Gruenewald (Munich).

At the official unveiling ceremony, which followed, the main speakers were the President of the International Dachau Committee, Major-General Albert Guerisse, and the Vice-Premier of Bavaria, Dr. A. Hundhammer, both former Dachau prisoners. As readers will have seen from reports in the general press, the proceedings were disturbed by a dozen or so people, mainly students, who carried banners with anti-Vietnam war and anti-Nato slogans and who also tried to shout down Herr Klaus Schuetz, President of the Bundesrat and Mayor of Berlin, when he delivered a message on behalf of the Federal German Government. Unfortunately, undue prominence was given to these anti-establishment disruptions, now *en vogue* all over the Western world. Their instigators not only showed disrespect to the memory of tens of thousands of heroes but were also oblivious of the fact that, but for the courage of those anti-Nazis, freedom of thought and speech would have vanished from the European continent.

The list of the representatives of States was headed by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, and included the Bonn ambassadors of the United Kingdom, Sir Roger Jacklin, and of Israel, Mr. A. Ben-Natan. Among the 75 members of the British delegation were Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, Mrs. Odette Hal-

lowes (Churchill) and four M.P.s. There were also several former German and Austrian Jews in the British contingent. The flight arrangements from London were made by the British Government, which put an R.A.F. plane at the disposal of the delegation. Special tributes are due to the organisers of the British transport, Mr. "Bob" Hollowday, G.C., and Captain B. R. Hanauer.

The impressive huge monument, the unveiling of which occasioned the rally, is a fitting tribute to the victims. It depicts seven emaciated bodies, their limbs intertwined. The artist is Nid Glandor, a Yugoslav, whose brother died in the camp and whose parents perished in Auschwitz.

However, not only the monument but the entire site of the former camp is a permanent memorial of the Nazi terror. The design of the area is due to the initiative of the Comité International de Dachau (Brussels), which represents organisations of former Dachau inmates in twenty countries. The major part of the costs was defrayed by the Bavarian and Federal German Governments and the Municipality of Munich. The site also includes the former crematorium and some original barracks. Records of the past are displayed in a particularly well arranged museum. The exhibits not only recall the history of Dachau but also convey details of the origins of the Nazi movement and of antisemitism in Germany. They also deal with the anti-Jewish measures between 1933 and 1939, including the mass arrests during the November, 1938, pogroms, when altogether 30,000 German and Austrian Jews went through the inferno of the camps, 10,000 each in Dachau, Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen.

These records of the pre-war crimes are of particular importance from our point of view. As the crimes committed between 1939 and 1945 and the number of people affected by them surpassed anything which had happened before, the world easily forgets that the war against humanity started in 1933 and that the German Jews were among its first victims. Sometimes it seems that even the German Jews themselves lack a necessary sense of history. Many of them have a matter-of-fact approach to life. They certainly help each other where help is necessary, but are easily inclined to dismiss memorials as useless expressions of false sentimentality. The Dachau site with its museum reaffirms the importance of mementoes which visibly preserve the manifestations of a barbaric period. It is, therefore, also a hopeful symptom that the number of German visitors to the camp is steadily increasing.

EASTERN JEWRY

POLISH COMMUNITY

The Social and Cultural Society in Poland, the major Jewish institution, the Yiddish-language newspaper "Folks-Sztyme", and the famous Warsaw Yiddish Theatre, are in danger of extinction. At a meeting of the Society's Silesian branches in Wroclaw (Breslau) an indication was given that the whole future of organised Jewry in Poland is in doubt. The resolutions indicated that there was criticism of the Society's leadership, that "Folks-Sztyme" is losing readers and contributors, and that it is virtually impossible to conduct ideological work among the Jewish population in the present circumstances.

In immediate danger is the Yiddish Theatre whose internationally celebrated founder and director, Ida Kaminska, has emigrated following her retirement. Arriving in Vienna with her family, she said she had not been forced out of Poland but had nevertheless endured much trouble there. She added it was a wrench to leave, especially after 22 years at the head of the Yiddish Theatre and with an uncertain future. Miss Kaminska went on to Israel, which she said she would make her main home and centre of her activities.

It has been learned that the Polish authorities have confiscated a large proportion of the files, documents and evidential material collected by the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, and removed them to an unknown destination. "Trybuna Ludu", the Communist Party newspaper, alleged that photocopies of some of the documents and even some documents themselves had been sent to Israel by the Institute. Knowledgeable Warsaw sources, however, consider that this action was taken to deprive the Institute of its documentary evidence of the part played by some Poles in the war-time extermination of Polish Jewry.

KYCHKO'S NEW ANTISEMITIC WORK

Trofim Kychko, author of the antisemitic booklet "Judaism Unmasked" which was officially condemned by the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party four years ago, has now completed another booklet. This latest work called "Judaism and Zionism" accuses "the ideologists of Judaism" of teaching Jews to "hate people of other faiths and even exterminate them". The booklet is to be published in Ukrainian by Znannia, the official atheist organisation.

Attacks on Jews and Judaism and accusations of dual loyalty have been a feature of the Soviet press recently. "Red Star", the Soviet Army daily, declared that "the religious morality of Judaism isolates religious Jews from other nations and justifies any crime against Gentiles". The article also accuses "the Zionist imperialist agencies in New York and Tel Aviv" of "disseminating the libel of alleged persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union."

CZECH WRITER IN ISRAEL

Arnold Lustig, the Czechoslovak-Jewish writer, has arrived in Israel from Italy together with his family. They are immigrants to the country.

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Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

SCHOOLS FOR HATRED

As early as 1949 a handbook, published by Unesco, proposed a set of principles for the improvement of textbooks and teaching materials as aids in international understanding. The suggested criteria included questions like: Are words and phrases which develop prejudice, misunderstanding and conflict avoided? Are the same standards of scholarship, justice and morality applied to other nations and groups as to one's own? Are minority groups, other races, nations and nationalities treated fairly and justly? Is due representation and recognition given to their contribution?

In replying to this questionnaire, Egypt, Syria and Jordan answered that the committees appointed for the purpose ensured that the textbooks did not contain "any harmful elements notably in connection with religion" or "anything which could impede international, racial, social or religious understanding" or "any passages likely to harm international or religious understanding" (cf. Unesco Publication on XXII Conference on Public Education, Geneva, 1950).

How do, in fact, these textbooks treat Jews and Judaism?

Hate and enmity are nurtured by fantastic stories about Jewish crimes and characteristics and about sinister aspects of Jewish religion. In "The Palestinian Problem," written by Dukan al Hindawi, a former minister of education in Jordan (1964-67), and used for last-year high school, it is said: "It is nearly certain that Judaism is the only religion which has made a tenet of espionage and set up for this purpose rules and organisations. Zionism exploits references to espionage in the Bible in order to transform espionage into a so-called religious service carried out by the Zionists with deep religious fervour. . . ."

In order to foster hatred of the Jews and of Israel some of the authors use religious justification and persuasion. Islamic religious books and traditions are enlisted for the campaign. The technique is as follows: the author cites a certain anti-Jewish extract from the classical Islamic literature and adds to it supplementary explanations: "The Jews of our time are the descendants of the Jews who harmed the prophet Muhammad. They betrayed him, they broke the treaty with him

and joined sides with his enemies to fight him. Today they are fighting the Arabs." (From "Religious Culture Teaching," Egyptian textbook for first-year junior high school.)

In some books the Jews are described as people who live in darkness, as cowards who dislike people living in peace. "The Jews are scattered over the ends of the earth, since by their nature they are vile, greedy and enemies of mankind." (From a Syrian religious text reader for second-year junior high school.) The teachings are not confined to children. An Egyptian textbook for third-year teachers' college reads: "The Jews won't live but in the darkness. They contrive their evils clandestinely. They fight only when they are hidden, because they are cowards."

A Jordanian author uses this as an explanation for the persecution of the Jews in Europe. "The Jews in Europe were persecuted and despised because of their corruption, meanness and treachery." (From "Modern World History," Jordan, for third-year junior high school.)

In another chapter of his book, "The Palestinian Problem" (see above), Dukan al Hindawi allocates a few pages to quotations from the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," the notorious forgery about a world Jewish conspiracy. It seems that this forged document is not enough for him. He adds his own interpretation and conclusions: "The first Zionist Congress in the year 1897 endorsed a comprehensive programme concerning the aims and methods of the Zionist movement. The main part of this programme appeared in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, which were approved secretly by the higher committee of the Congress. . . ." (page 35.) On page 42 he continues: "The Bible justified intercourse between two spies and the harlot from Jericho. The Bible favoured this since it aided them in their task of espionage, which in turn helped Joshua conquer the town. . . and according to the instructions of the Elders of Zion and to what is mentioned in the Bible, the Zionists saw the spread of corruption and decay as an objective and as a means." As pointed out before, this is a textbook for last-year high school.

These manifestations of hate and hostility, lies and falsehoods, distortion and discrimination are only specimens of the vast quantities to be found in the school textbooks of Egypt, Syria and Jordan, whose seals appear on the covers. The question arises: why is Unesco silent? Certainly, those countries have not carried out their written undertaking to avoid anything that could "impede international, racial, social or religious understanding" and to preclude "any harmful elements, notably in connection with religion."

Mr. Ezra Hess, a young Jerusalem scholar, has been collecting wide and comprehensive material on this subject which he plans to publish as a booklet.

ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH HOSPITAL

To mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Hamburg Israelitische Krankenhaus, a celebration was held on September 7 in Hamburg's America House. Mr. Eric M. Warburg, chairman of the Kuratorium, presided and messages were delivered by representatives of the Hamburg authorities and of medical organisations. The main speakers were Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, who gave an address on "Juedisches Krankenhauswesen in Deutschland—Versuch eines geschichtlichen Rueckblicks", and Felix Epstein who described the history of the hospital.

The hospital owes its foundation to the generosity of the banker Salomon Heine, an uncle of the poet. Due to its medical standard it has always enjoyed a very high reputation. Originally situated in St. Pauli, a new building with accommodation for 220 patients was erected in Hamburg-Eppendorf with the help of the State of Hamburg and consecrated in 1960.

VENEZUELAN HONOURS

Rabbi Moshe Binia, rabbi emeritus of Venezuela's Sephardi community for over thirty years, has received the Order of Francisco de Miranda for "distinguished service to the nation". Thirty-one other foreign-born citizens also received the honour, including Mr. Jules Waldman Schwartz, the publisher of Venezuela's English-language newspaper, "The Daily Journal".

CHARLES H. JORDAN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Charles H. Jordan, the Director General of the "Joint" who died last year in Prague under mysterious circumstances, a Memorial Trust has been erected. It is to be used for scholarships to students in the field of social work. The president of the fund is Mr. Edward M. M. Warburg, until some years ago chairman of the "Joint."

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