Preface

The present volume, the fifty-fourth in the series, contains an expanded "Review of the Year," consisting of seventeen articles dealing with the United States, twenty-four with foreign countries and one with a topic international in nature. The following are deemed worthy of special mention, either because they are new to these volumes or, in the editors' opinion, present information of unusual interest: summaries of Jewish population data of five American communities (Passaic, N. J.; Port Chester, N. Y.; Los Angeles, Cal.; Savannah, Ga.; Sioux City, Iowa) based on demographic surveys made locally; a summary and analysis, presented in tabular form, of legislation against discrimination enacted in the various states; a summary of the provisions of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Law; a study of curriculum trends in Jewish education in the United States; a summary of the controversy surrounding the MacIver report dealing with the work of the Jewish community relations agencies; reports from local observers of the Jewish communities of the Republic of Ireland and India; a first-hand account of political trends in West Germany; a comprehensive survey of developments in the countries behind the Iron Curtain, including especially the Communist purges in Czechoslovakia; two articles on Israel presenting full data on population and immigration as well as on economic, political and cultural trends; an authoritative account of political currents in the Arab world; and, finally, a report on German collective indemnity to Israel and world Jewry.

In addition to these and other equally valuable summaries of events and trends of Jewish interest during the past year, the present volume also contains an illuminating appreciation of the life and work of Yitzchak Leybush Peretz, famous Jewish poet and story teller, the hundredth anniversary of whose birth was commemorated in 1952 by Jews the world over.

The editors have again been fortunate in securing as authors of the foreign articles highly competent and experienced observers who are at present or were in the past residents of the countries being reported on. Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify all of the authors as some have requested that their contributions remain anonymous. The editors are grateful to all of them as well as to the authors of the articles on the domestic scene, for their contributions to this volume and their cooperation in meeting editorial deadlines, and to Maurice Goldbloom, who assisted in the editing of the manuscripts. The editors also acknowledge with gratitude the work of Miss Dora Cohen for her invaluable assistance in the compilation of the volume, of Mrs. Sophie Rubenstein and Mrs. Stella Ettlinger, who typed the manuscripts, and the staff of the Library of Jewish Information, who furnished valuable reference and technical assistance. Considerable aid was also rendered by Mrs. Minna Hoffenstein of the American Jewish Committee, who prepared the necrology section; Mrs. Freda Imrey, who did the proofreading; and Mrs. Effie Solis-Cohen, who did the indexing. Thanks are also due to those on the staff of the American Jewish Committee and outside the organization who offered helpful advice and suggestions on some of the manuscripts.

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December 29, 1952
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