
Central Europe

WEST GERMANY *

Foreign Policy and Reunification

THE deadlock over reunification continued in the year under review (mid-1958 to mid-1959). Moscow on various occasions repeated its proposal that the East and West German governments form a "federation" or "confederation" in which each regime would have equal representation. In Bonn the West German Federal Republic, with two-thirds of Germany's population, continued to insist on free elections; in Pankow the East German government demanded the establishment of a "dual-state system" which would ensure perpetuation of the "Soviet socialist achievements."

In October 1958 the Pankow government denounced the "four-power status" of Berlin, referring to the city as a "center of provocation and aggression." The following month Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev demanded the withdrawal of Allied troops from West Berlin and the creation of a "free and demilitarized city." His recommendations were rejected unanimously by the Western powers and the Federal Republic.

In January 1959 the Soviet Union threatened to conclude a separate peace treaty with the East German government. On May 11, 1959, a conference between Soviet and Western foreign ministers began in Geneva. Bonn and Pankow were permitted to participate in a consultative capacity. The ministers parted in August without any agreement on Berlin or German reunification.

In March the Social Democratic party published a "Germany Plan," recommending the creation of a demilitarized zone in Central Europe, a collective-security pact between the Soviet Union and the United States of America, and "gradual rapprochement" between the two Germanies. This plan was rejected unconditionally by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. Suggestions for a Polish-German non-aggression pact were criticized severely, especially by refugee groups.

Domestic Political Affairs

Provincial elections confirmed the continuance of the two-party trend indicated in the Bundestag elections of September 1957 (AJYB, 1958 [Vol. 59], p. 288).

The Bavarian election resulted in a clear victory, although not an absolute majority, for the Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian branch of the

* For meaning of abbreviations, see p. 359.

Christian Democrats (CDU). Under its leadership a coalition with the smaller nonsocialist parties, which had lost 21 seats, was formed. In Hesse the Social Democratic (SPD) government kept power and retained its coalition with the All-German Bloc Refugee party (GB-BHE). In Schleswig-Holstein the Christian Democrats captured 44.4 per cent of the total vote and the Social Democrats 35.9 per cent, while the smaller parties declined noticeably. The right-wing German party (DP) was unable to reach the 5 per cent minimum required for representation, polling only 2.8 per cent of the total vote. In Rheinland-Pfalz the Christian Democrats retained their plurality and formed a coalition with the Free Democratic party (FDP). In Lower Saxony the Social Democrats won a plurality, ousted the DP from the government, and formed a coalition with BHE and FDP. In Berlin, where a record high of 93.7 per cent of eligible voters turned out, SPD won an absolute majority, but retained a "great coalition" with CDU in view of the critical situation. The Socialist Unity party (SED; Communist) polled 1.9 per cent of the total vote.

Atomic armament continued to be a central issue in political affairs. Following the federal Supreme Court's ruling of July 30, 1958, that it would be unconstitutional for a state government to hold a referendum on the question, SPD, supported by FDP and many prominent nonparty people, decided to continue the "war against atomic death."

The government's bills for giving the federal government emergency powers and for stronger anti-libel legislation were severely criticized by the public and by members of all major parties. The federal cabinet proposed a "party law" to regulate the internal order of political parties and to ensure their democratic structure. The bill also provided for compulsory publicity on party financing.

On July 1, 1959, Minister of Agriculture Heinrich Luebke was elected to succeed Theodor Heuss, who was to retire from the presidency in September upon conclusion of his second term. The election of the Christian Democratic candidate was preceded by personal and political conflicts among Chancellor Adenauer, cabinet members, and CDU-CSU party functionaries.

Economic Affairs

The West German economic "miracle" continued. Industrial production on April 1, 1959, was 3.1 per cent higher than a year earlier. In July 1959, for the first time since the war, the number of unemployed was smaller than the number of jobs open, unemployment dropping 72,165 to 255,395. Exports for 1958 were slightly above 1957—DM 36.98 billion (\$8.9 billion) against DM 35.97 billion (\$8.6 billion). The foreign trade surplus rose from DM 4.27 billion (about \$1 billion) to DM 5.85 billion (about \$1.4 billion). The stock-market index rose from 155.4 in June 1958 (1954 = 100) to 324.67 in June 1959.

Partial transfer to private ownership of the government-owned Preussag (Preussische Bergwerks- und Hütten A.G.) commenced in April with the issuance of *Volksaktien* (people's stocks) for middle-income groups, and the federal cabinet planned to follow a similar procedure in the near future in regard to Volkswagen. However, its right to do so was challenged by the

government of Lower Saxony, which claimed ownership of the Volkswagen works.

West Germany's favorable trade position enabled her to invest more capital abroad, particularly in underdeveloped countries, both directly and through loans to the World Bank. Foreign investments stood at the record figure of DM 5.65 billion (about \$1.4 billion) at the end of 1958. Trade agreements were signed or renewed with the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Denmark, Sweden, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Pakistan.

Special measures were considered by the federal government to deal with the coal industry's overproduction crisis. A special tax was imposed on fuel oil, to slow the shift from coal to oil.

Neo-Nazism and Ultrationalism

At a provincial ministers' conference in May the general consensus was that "the greatest danger came from the left and not from the right." Rightist groups were divided, it was asserted. Nevertheless, neo-Nazi groups attracted voters in the provincial elections. The Deutsche Reichspartei (DRP) polled 87,222 votes in the Rheinland-Pfalz election, 5.1 per cent of the total, as against 2.6 per cent in the Bundestag election of 1957. In Lower Saxony the party lost the 7 seats it had held in the diet since 1955, but only because it was unable to meet the 5 per cent minimum newly required by state law; actually, since the Bundestag election of 1957 the number of rightist votes had increased 33,263 to 122,226. In Schleswig-Holstein DRP's share rose from 0.7 per cent (Bundestag election of 1957) to 1.1 per cent; in Bavaria and Hesse DRP scored only 0.6 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively.

Neo-Nazi groups generally tended to hide their antidemocratic aims so as to avoid the fate of the Sozialistische Reichspartei (SRP), banned by the Supreme Court in 1952 (AJYB, 1954 [Vol. 55], p. 238). During election campaigns DRP skilfully aroused economic and nationalistic resentments as well as anticlerical feelings. Recent cases of corruption were propagandistically manipulated to discredit parliamentary government and the liberal parties. The party claimed a membership of 20,000, with an average age of 33. Its leaders vehemently denied that they received financial aid from industrial circles or from East Germany. After DRP's gains in Rheinland-Pfalz, FDP and some members of SPD tried to steal its thunder by supporting a private bill circulated among deputies in the Bundestag which would grant benefits and pensions to high SS and Nazi-party officials. In general, there was increasing pressure for "drawing a line under the past." A new neo-Nazi party, the Freie Sozialistische Volkspartei (FSVP), was founded in March by 40 delegates from various local neo-Nazi groups.

Most persons with rightist leanings and nationalist resentments, however, gave their votes to less extreme parties which had a better chance of reaching the 5 per cent required for parliamentary representation. Some support of this kind went to FDP, DP, and GB-BHE. In May the Nationaldemokratische Union (NDU) was founded under the leadership of ex-Sudeten German Nazis in the Bavarian GB-BHE as an inclusive "organization of all nationally conscious and anti-Communist parties."

The activities of émigré groups in Munich, notably the Hungarian Arrow Cross movement, which maintained contacts with similar groups in the United States, Australia, and Great Britain, aroused strong protest. The Rumanian Iron Guardists staged an "anti-Bolshevik" conference in Mainz in October 1958. Slovak separatists and Hlinka groups continued their activities in Bavaria.

The total membership of extreme rightist youth groups in the Federal Republic was estimated by socialist and Christian youth leaders at about 40,000. In June 1959 seven extremist youth groups merged into the Nationale Jugendgemeinschaft Deutschlands. The League of Nationalist Students (BNS), affiliated with DRP, continued to be active at several universities. Numerous extremist youth periodicals were published and prominent Nazis appeared as guests of honor at discussion meetings and campfire celebrations.

NAZI REHABILITATION

In June 1959 a bill to bring denazification to a conclusion was introduced in the Bavarian diet by the GB-BHE party. In October 1959 the clause which would have made it possible for men given the highest guilt rating by postwar denazification tribunals to be chosen for municipal and administrative posts was killed in committee, with only BHE and some CSU members voting for it. During the election campaign in September 1958, the Bavarian CSU withdrew the candidacy of three former SS members, after public protests (AJYB, 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 186).

The denazification tribunal in Berlin was the only one still functioning fully; on June 3, 1959, Hermann Goering's heirs were ordered to pay a fine of DM 756,000 (\$181,000).

The exposure of old Nazis in political and economic life was a popular propaganda device in the East-West conflict. This trend was especially apparent during the Geneva conference in the late spring, when both sides vied in denouncing delegation members' pasts.

The East German regime published a list of 800 judges and public prosecutors in the West-German judiciary who had served on Hitler's People's Courts, in a brochure supplementing a 1957 publication (AJYB, 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 187). Many of those named had been responsible for death sentences. After a question in the British House of Commons, Bonn gave assurance in December that federal and provincial authorities were investigating crimes committed by members of the Nazi judiciary. The matter was discussed in the Bundestag in January. The opposition parties, SPD and FDP, sharply attacked cabinet members and government officials who, they said, had been affiliated with the Nazis and had made it possible for Nazis to reenter the judiciary.

Criminal and administrative proceedings were opened against a number of persons in the judiciary. In December 1958 Hessian Senior State Attorney Otto Schweinsberger was suspended after charges that during the war he had quashed the prosecution of a person accused of shooting 75 Jews "unlawfully." In Bavaria an investigation was started against Adolf Paulus, the judge who had convicted the "Butcher of Buchenwald," Martin Sommer, in July 1958, on charges that he had handed down death sentences while serving on

Nazi courts. Munich's Senior State Attorney Max von Decker was fined DM 300 (\$70) by a disciplinary board for letting concentration-camp physician Hans Eisele escape to Egypt in 1958 (AJYB, 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 190). Disciplinary action was started against two senior prosecutors in West Berlin, also for handing down death sentences while serving on Nazi courts. A parliamentary inquiry in Rheinland-Pfalz had produced no results by the end of the period under review.

PENSIONS FOR NAZIS

The Trade Union Council of Lower Saxony published two lists, naming more than 60 leading Nazi officials and concentration-camp physicians receiving government pensions. Popular protests led the Schleswig-Holstein ministry of the interior to revoke the pensions of People's Court prosecutor Ernst Lautz and of Nazi Deputy Minister of Justice Franz Schlegelberger. The Social Court in Schleswig-Holstein in September granted a pension to Reinhard Heydrich's widow, because it found that the SS security chief, assassinated by Czech patriots, had died "in war action." A Frankfurt administrative court granted the former Nazi mayor of Offenbach, Helmuth Schranz, a monthly pension of DM 1,407 (\$337) and DM 100,000 (\$23,900) in back payments. Another court denied a pension to Friedrich Krebs, formerly the Nazi mayor of Frankfurt. Curt Rothenberger, state secretary in the Nazi ministry of justice, one of the persons responsible for the decree placing the Jews under police jurisdiction, was receiving DM 2,073.19 (\$497) in monthly pensions.

The SS-Haig (an aid organization of former SS members) sent a petition to Bundestag deputies, demanding that 1,500 former SS leaders receive government pension, and claiming that the Waffen SS, as distinguished from the regular SS, did not partake in Nazi crimes. The proposal found some support among Bundestag deputies of all parties, including some members of SPD.

In April two Nazi groups disguised as welfare organizations, the Soziale Hilfswerk für die Zivilinternierten in Wuppertal and the Bundesverband der ehemaligen Internierten und Entnazifizierungsgeschädigten in Bonn, were dissolved by the North Rhine-Westphalia ministry of the interior. Offices were closed and *Der Ring*, a publication with an estimated circulation of 15,000, was confiscated. The Hessian subsidiary of the Bundesverband, the Kameradschaftshilfe ehemaliger Internierter und Entnazifizierungsgeschädigter, survived.

The Landesverband Saar der ehemaligen Internierten und Entnazifizierungsgeschädigten protested in April against the banning of the organization in North Rhine-Westphalia. The protest was signed by former Saar Premier Hubert Ney and Deputy Speaker Paul Simonis of the Saar diet. The organization changed its name to Kampfbund für Freiheit und Recht.

NAZI AND MILITARIST LITERATURE

Memoirs of prominent Nazis and other pro-Nazi books were rarely sold in bookshops, but through "specialized" book clubs affiliated with neo-Nazi periodicals, such as the *Reichsruf* and the *Deutsche Soldatenzeitung*, they

reached high circulation figures. Attempts to invoke the law against their publishers and authors met with little success. In August 1958 the Munich Jewish community filed a complaint against the Hungarian Arrow Cross periodicals *Cél* and *Hidverök*, which were being distributed in Germany and abroad. *Hidverök* was edited by Gaza Alföldi, former propaganda section chief for the Hungarian Nazi Premier Ferenc Szálasi. Other antisemitic and antidemocratic literature, such as the monthly *Der Quell* and the weekly *Die Volkswarte*, was published regularly by Frau Mathilde von Ludendorff, widow of the field marshal and priestess of Wotan and Thor. Bavarian authorities were reluctant to ban this literature, although a state law (Lex Hoegner of March 13, 1946) made group defamation a punishable offense.

In February *Der Weg*, published by Nazis in Argentina, was confiscated by the Lueneburg district court. On May 22 the Federal Supreme Court sentenced Robert Hans Kremer, publisher of the antisemitic *Die Anklage*, to two years' imprisonment. *Das Neue Reich* began publication in January in the neo-Nazi Plesse Verlag, Göttingen. It was edited by Helmut Steinberg, formerly secretary to the Nazi race mythologist Alfred Rosenberg.

Propaganda literature distributed by the Arab League in Bonn included a pamphlet entitled "May 15—Mourning Day of the Arab World," asserting that atrocities committed by the SS in Oradour and Lidice were "but a shadow" of what the Zionists had done in Palestine. In March Arab students were punished by a disciplinary tribunal at Marburg University for distributing anti-Jewish literature. The editor of the pro-Arab *Deutsch-Afrika-Orient Informationen*, Otto Karl Duepow, was given a suspended five-month sentence in September for making anti-Jewish remarks about non-Jewish SPD chairman Erich Ollenhauer. Propagandistic literature was also distributed by the "Cairo Friends," a group of Nazi intellectuals.

In June the Lower Saxony printing trade union called on its members to refuse to print neo-Nazi literature and promised to defend members dismissed because of their refusal.

EDUCATION AND ATTITUDE TO THE THIRD REICH

While German democratic leaders, radio, television, and the press overwhelmingly condemned the Hitler regime, some admiration still existed for the "achievements" of Nazism, and there was a tendency to avoid knowledge of Nazi crimes. In May a series of television interviews revealed that many young people viewed Hitler as the man "who revived Germany" and "built the Autobahnen," and professed almost complete ignorance of the crimes committed against the Jews. Newspaper and periodical surveys found that German youth in general was open-minded, but had been badly informed. The surveys revealed that students were skeptical of "all ideologies," including Nazism, Communism, and democracy. History textbooks dealt with the Third Reich and the persecution of the Jews inadequately and teachers preferred to avoid "controversial" questions, claiming that the social-studies curriculum was so crowded that no time was left to teach contemporary history. Teachers also complained that parents, uncertain in their own attitudes, gave their children a distorted picture of the Nazi period.

In June the Hesse ministry of education decreed that history lessons in the

last grade of all state high schools must in the future concentrate on the period after 1917. The state immediately began in-service training on contemporary history for teachers. Similar steps were under consideration in Baden-Württemberg and Rheinland-Pfalz.

The Coordinating Council of Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation conducted an educators' conference in October, and young history teachers met on their own initiative to remedy the situation. It was found that while there was a great deal of factual material available on the Third Reich, there was much confusion about method and a lack of historical perspective. President Theodor Heuss stressed that one of the main problems was the "lack of tradition" due to two world wars and the Nazi experience. He said there was a danger that the vacuum might lead to a "romantic overexaggeration" of tradition.

At Frankfurt University a new chair of contemporary history was occupied by Paul Kluge, former director of the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich. At Heidelberg, Professor Werner Conze's lectures on Nazism were overcrowded. Numerous discussions on "how to overcome the past," sponsored by government, trade-union, and church agencies, took place at adult-education centers.

The government-financed Institute of Contemporary History in Munich published studies on the Nazi period in its quarterly. Sections of the autobiography of Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss (*Kommandant in Auschwitz*, Stuttgart 1958), published by the institute, were reprinted in various popular magazines and periodicals. *Das Parlament*, a weekly published by the Bundeszentrale für Heimatdienst and dedicated to political education, reached a high circulation.

The radio stations and many newspapers used anniversaries of such events as the Nazis' rise to power and the anti-Jewish pogroms of November 1938 to recall the Nazi crimes to the population. The horrors of the concentration camps, revealed in recent trials, were also reported and commented upon at great length by the press and radio. A group of young writers in West Berlin collected material for an exhibit on antisemitism to be shown in Berlin and major West German cities. The project received the support of the Berlin ministry of the interior. School programs on the major radio stations stressed the cultural and economic contribution of German Jews.

In July 1958 Chief of Staff General Adolf Heusinger of the German army praised the revolt of army officers against Hitler in 1944. It was the first time an army official had described the anti-Nazi conspirators not merely as "men of conscience" but as "guiding images" for the German soldier.

ANTISEMITISM

According to a public opinion poll conducted by the Allensbach Institut für Demoskopie, anti-Jewish attitudes in West Germany were dwindling. Whereas in 1952 37 per cent thought "it was better that no Jews live in Germany," there were 29 per cent in 1956 and 22 per cent in 1959. Another survey by the institute showed that 44 per cent of the adult population had no associations with the word "antisemitism," and that 50 per cent of those

under 30 years of age did not know what the word meant. For some observers this was so incredible that they questioned the worth of the survey.

Numerous antisemitic incidents occurred, generally in inns, cafes, and restaurants, and under the influence of alcohol. The standard slogan was: "Not enough Jews were gassed." Jewish cemeteries were desecrated in Freiburg, Amberg, Essen, Düsseldorf, and Dinslaken. In January swastikas were painted on the portal of the synagogue dedicated in Düsseldorf in September 1958. German leaders and the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland stressed that although the incidents had to be taken seriously, they were "isolated" and did not express the attitude of the German people. Chancellor Adenauer blamed "incorrigible Nazis and delinquent youths." It was asserted that in some cases East German agents had instigated antisemitism in the West in order to discredit the Federal Republic abroad. Jewish leaders expressed more concern about "latent, indirect, and disguised" forms of antisemitism, such as the delaying tactics of indemnification officials and the leniency of some courts toward Nazi criminals.

Antisemitic incidents were widely reported and condemned in the German press. Numerous forums and lectures were conducted on the "revival" of antisemitism. Letters to the editors showed the people's disturbance over the incidents. Politicians, educators, youth leaders, and women's associations appealed for better education about Nazi crimes and for strong measures against antisemitism.

In September 1958 libel charges, brought by the Society for Christians and Jews against Karl Meissner, chairman of the neo-Nazi Deutsche Block, were dismissed for lack of evidence, but in February 1959 the federal Supreme Court reinstated the case. In October a German consulate official in New York, Hans von Saucken, was suspended and recalled because he had called a UN journalist a "dirty Jew." In November the federal Supreme Court rejected Ludwig Zind's appeal for retrial. While the Court was deliberating, the antisemitic chemistry teacher escaped to Cairo (AJYB, 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 189).

Inquiries were started in December by the Hessian police against hooligans who had vandalized the property of a Jewish cafe owner in Köppern. In Lübeck Anne Frank's father brought libel charges against Lothar Stielau, a high-school teacher and district chairman of DRP, for calling *The Diary of Anne Frank* a fraud.

On January 6 the Hamburg Superior Court upheld the decision not to place Nieland and Heimberg on trial. A lower court had refused to ban the pamphlet *Wieviel Welt (Geld) Kriege müssen die Völker noch verlieren*, published by lumber dealer Friedrich Nieland and printer Adolf Heimberg. Hamburg's Mayor Max Brauer denounced the "scandalous decision" and appealed to Chancellor Adenauer. The case was referred to the federal Supreme Court, which ordered confiscation of the pamphlet on the ground that it contained antidemocratic statements.

On January 14 the federal cabinet decided on a bill revising paragraph 130 of the penal code and providing stiffer measures for group libel. The bill was approved by the upper house (Bundesrat), and received its first reading in the Bundestag on April 8. During the debates, however, political

leaders of all parties voiced their misgivings about "special legislation for a particular group," because it might in the long run be used for antidemocratic purposes. Representatives of the Zentralrat feared the law might "perpetuate the special and isolated status" of the Jews in Germany. It was also deemed inadequate because it did not provide for public prosecution of group libel. There was general agreement, however, that antisemitism should be met with strong measures. During the following months German courts meted out numerous prison sentences, ranging from three to seven months, under existing laws against libel, defamation of the memory of the dead, and public condonation of crimes.

WAR CRIMES AND NAZI TRIALS

The only major war criminals still detained under four-power control in Berlin-Spandau were Rudolf Hess, Baldur von Schirach, and Albert Speer. About 30 war criminals were still imprisoned in various European countries.

After the Tilsit Einsatz-Commando trial (April 26 to August 29; AJYB, 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 190), the provincial ministries of justice established a central commission in Stuttgart-Ludwigsburg to coordinate and accelerate investigations into war and concentration-camp crimes. The commission, headed by Senior State Attorney Erwin Schuele, was to carry out preliminary investigations, leading to prosecutions by local authorities, not, officials stressed, to carry out a "second denazification." Suspects were to be investigated not for political reasons—i.e., affiliation with Nazi organizations—but because they were under suspicion of having committed crimes punishable under German criminal or military law. The commission was working against time because many crimes, including murder, would soon come under the statutes of limitations.

As a result of inquiries by the Central Committee of German Jews and local authorities, a number of "respectable citizens" were arrested, including high police officers, doctors, attorneys, public prosecutors, and salesmen for big industrial firms. Some committed suicide after their arrest. A few confessed, but most claimed they had acted under orders without knowing they were doing wrong. The prosecutors, however, charged that even according to the penal and military code valid in the Nazi period the accused had committed crimes.

In Bielefeld two police officials and a prominent lawyer were arrested and charged with the murder of Lithuanian Jews in 1941. In Hanover former Einsatz-Commando chief Gerhard Schneider was charged with the murder of thousands of Jews in Poland and Russia. West Berlin investigated charges that 23 former members of Battalion IX—a police battalion—had participated in the murder of Bialystok Jews. Auschwitz guard Wilhelm Reichenbach was sentenced to ten years by a Munich court for complicity in murder.

The public was shocked when 55-year-old former camp guard Gottlieb Muzikant confessed to the murder of 500 persons and the torture of many more at Mauthausen and other camps. In January, after a four-month trial which revealed details of concentration-camp brutality, the Bonn Jury Court convicted former Sachsenhausen SS guards Wilhelm Schubert of 46 and Gustav Sorge of 67 murders and sentenced them to life imprisonment at hard

labor. A Soviet tribunal in 1947 had sentenced them to life imprisonment for the murder of more than 10,000 Russian prisoners. Numerous persons were implicated during the trial.

In June Wilhelm Unkelbach, a truck driver, was given seven sentences of life imprisonment by a Hanau court for crimes committed in the Czestochowa ghetto. In April five former policemen were acquitted of the charge of shooting Polish citizens in 1939 because the court found that they had "acted under orders and were unaware of doing wrong."

A Duisburg court in January dismissed the indictment of Alfred Freter, a high officer in the fire department, who in November 1938 had ordered the burning of the Muelheim synagogue. In April a Lüneburg court rejected arraignment of a Dutch SS man who had escaped from Breda prison in Holland, where he had been serving a life sentence for shooting hostages in 1944.

The federal Supreme Court ordered the retrial of SS General Max Simon, acquitted by a lower court of executing German citizens who tried to prevent a hopeless last-ditch defense at the end of the war.

Indemnification

Bonn agreed to pay compensation to foreign nationals, while acknowledging only moral and not legal obligations. Agreements were reached with Norway, Luxembourg, and Denmark for the indemnification of persons persecuted during the Nazi occupation for religious, racial, or ideological reasons. There was a deadlock over indemnification talks with France, which demanded the compensation of resistance fighters as well. Talks with Austria were also deadlocked because West Germany said that Austria had willingly collaborated with Hitler. Negotiations with the Netherlands were still in progress. At the end of March an agreement was reached with JOKOS (Stichting van Joodse Kerkgenootschappen en Sociale Organisaties in Nederland . . .), a restitution organization in the Netherlands, to compensate Jews for the loss of household assets confiscated during the so-called "M-Aktion" (a measure instituted by Nazi authorities for the confiscation of Jewish property).

Misleading figures on the costs of indemnification, published in the official government bulletin of August 6, 1958 (AJYB 1959 [Vol 60], p. 191), were criticized by the *Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden* and by leading German publications. In September the German Institute for Economic Research pointed out that indemnification to Nazi victims only made up a minor fraction (6 per cent) of the cost of "Hitler's war." The institute estimated that whereas total indemnification to victims of Nazism, including reparations to Israel, would approximate DM 22 billion (about \$5 billion) the total German "social war burdens" would amount to between DM 239 and 259 billion (\$57 and \$60 billion). The last official estimate of the finance ministry put indemnification at DM 17.2 billion (\$4.1 billion). According to federal Finance Minister Franz Etzel, the Federal Republic had expended approximately DM 6.36 billion (\$1.5 billion) for individual compensation under the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG) up to June 30, 1959.

In June the federal ministry of finance announced that half the cost of

indemnification was to be borne by the federal government and half by the states.

The slow progress of compensation was criticized by a delegation of CJMCAG which visited the Federal Republic in June. It was estimated that at the present rate of about 23,000 claims rejected or paid each month, the March 31, 1963, deadline could not be met. Many claimants were dying before their cases were reached.

Of DM 2.6 million (\$650,000) earmarked for indemnification in the federal and provincial budgets for 1958, one million was not expended, largely because of the inadequacy and poor training of the staff. Of about 2.6 million claims filed (1.9 million from abroad and 670,000 from Germany proper), a little more than 60 per cent were Jewish. There were more than 1.5 million claims pending on March 31, 1959.

Jewish leaders protested against the "growingly restrictive interpretation and narrow-mindedness" in the application of the indemnification law. Claimants who had difficulty in proving eligibility, due to narrow and legalistic interpretations by the authorities, sometimes took refuge in the manufacture of proof. Jewish leaders condemned such practices. A bureau was jointly opened in Frankfurt by the German authorities and the United Restitution Organization for the purpose of uncovering irregularities.

In June Chancellor Adenauer and a conference of finance ministers gave assurances that practical steps would be taken to accelerate indemnification. In some states the indemnification staff was increased, and measures were under consideration to distribute the work between the various states. The president of the Federal Board of Financial Review (Bundesrechnungshof) promised that it would support the acceleration program.

Restitution, the return of identifiable property, proceeded much more smoothly than compensation. By April 1959 more than DM 308 million (\$77 million) had been paid. Compensation for nonrecoverable property confiscated by the Reich, the Nazi party, and similar bodies was to be paid to a total amount of DM 1.5 billion (\$375 million), under the Federal Restitution Law of July 19, 1957.

Jewish Community

There were no official figures on the number of Jews in Germany except the membership statistics of the Jewish religious congregations ("communities"). Many Jews, particularly those returning from abroad, failed to take out formal membership, and estimates of their number varied greatly. The number registered in the Jewish congregations rose from 20,645 on June 30, 1958, to 21,653 on June 30, 1959. Between 1955 and 1959 the registered membership had risen 5,879, almost solely by immigration, mostly of Jews who had been forced to leave Germany after 1933, and not by natural increase. From 1955 to 1959 there were 239 births, as against 1,466 deaths. In the same period 1,885 Jews left Germany and 205 dropped their membership in the communities, approximately 6,000 Jews immigrated from abroad, and some 3,000 came to the communities from former DP camps. Unofficial estimates of the total Jewish population ranged between 30,000 and 40,000.

RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNAL AFFAIRS

There were 72 organized Jewish communities. Of the total Jewish population a half, about 14,500, lived in Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, and Cologne. There was still a shortage of spiritual leaders. Rabbis officiated regularly only in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Essen (for all of North-Rhine Westphalia), Munich, and Cologne. Hamburg and Berlin were in search of rabbis. In addition, retired and foreign rabbis, including some from the occupation forces, conducted services on Rosh ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur.

From 1955 to 1959, the number of school-age children more than doubled, reaching 1,817. But in June 1959 there were only 49 teachers giving religious instruction in about 40 localities. These teachers often concurrently performed other duties in the communities. They represented a variety of backgrounds and outlooks, and the training and experience of some were not fully satisfactory. If the Jewish Agency had not provided some Israeli teachers, the situation would have been even more difficult. Though there was a great need for extension courses for teachers, only one in-service training course could be organized. It took place in Strasbourg, France, in March and was attended by only a few of the teachers. A Jewish history textbook was being compiled under the auspices of the cultural section of the Zentralrat. The Zentralrat also subsidized the purchase of teaching material.

B'nai B'rith lodges were founded in Berlin and Frankfurt. New synagogues and community houses continued to be planned and built. The most impressive of these, the Berlin Jewish Community House, on the site of the Fasenenstrasse synagogue burnt by the Nazis in November 1938, was inaugurated in September 1959. The new building included assembly halls, club rooms, a library, and other educational facilities. New synagogues and community houses were dedicated in Düsseldorf in September 1958, in Bonn in May 1959, and in Cologne and Essen in September 1959, in the presence of political personalities, officials, and Jewish representatives. Funds had been allocated for building synagogues and community centers in Paderborn, Aachen, Minden, Hamburg, Bremen, and Gelsenkirchen. Negotiations between federal, provincial, and municipal authorities for the reconstruction of the Rashi Synagogue in Worms were completed, and the cornerstone was laid in September 1959. The synagogue was to be built in exactly the same style as the 12th-century one destroyed by the Nazis during the November 1938 pogroms.

The Bavarian Association of Jewish Communities held its annual conference in July, but without the Munich community, which was still headed by the Vorstand (executive committee) regarded by most Jewish authorities as illegally elected (AJYB, 1956 [Vol. 57], p. 387; 1957 [Vol. 58], p. 291; 1958 [Vol. 59], p. 298; 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 196).

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Brotherhood week was celebrated in all major German cities and by the 19 West German radio stations. On March 27 the *Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden* wrote that never was philosemitism so strongly expressed as during that year's celebrations. The Deutsche Koordinierungsrat der Gesellschaften

für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit (German Coordinating Council of Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation) had been established in 1949 under American auspices on the pattern of the (American) National Conference of Christians and Jews. It was supported by state and private contributions. President Heuss was active in its work, as were many government officials, educators, and molders of public opinion. While the council and its local societies were not a mass movement, they exerted a continuous influence. There were 26 local societies, the most recent having been founded in Mannheim, Aachen, Göttingen, and Siegen.

The Evangelical Dienst an Israel (Service to Israel), under the auspices of the Institutum Judaicum of Münster University, held its tenth annual conference in Bremen in March. The conference was well attended, with more than 200 theology students participating. Major speakers were former Hessian State Minister Arno Henneg, Chief Rabbi Kurt Wilhelm of Stockholm, and author Heinz Flügel of the Evangelical academy of Tutzing. The numerous Evangelical academies devoted many weekends to free discussion of public issues by men and women of all creeds and backgrounds, and often scheduled gatherings on Jewish and intergroup questions where Jewish personalities were invited as speakers and guests. A similar program in the Catholic Rabanus Maurus Akademie was initiated by Karl Thieme. Drei Ringe (Three Rings), a group of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish high-school and college youth, also arranged conferences. *Men of Faith in the German Resistance*, consisting of talks given before such groups on Rabbi Leo Baeck, Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Father Alfred Delp, was published by Ner Tamid publishing house in Munich. Round-table discussions took place on radio and television networks, and numerous interdenominational discussions were published in newspapers and periodicals. In July a ten-day youth conference on intergroup relations initiated by the cultural section of the Zentralrat took place in Gauting under the auspices of UNESCO. Participants included 50 youths—25 Jews and 25 non-Jews—from 12 different countries.

In February 1959 two young Catholic writers, Heinrich Böll and Paul Schallück, founded a library of German Jewish history, the Bibliothek zur Geschichte des deutschen Judentums ("Germania Judaica"), in Cologne. They started to collect books and documents, and planned the publication of a bulletin. Paul Schallück's novel *Engelbert Reineke*, the story of a young German teacher trying to overcome the past, became a best-seller. In West Berlin the Protestant clergyman Gerhard Kreyssig founded the Aktion Sühnezeichen. Youth groups were organized to do reconstruction work in countries devastated by Nazi occupation and in Israel. School children and boy scouts volunteered to clean up Jewish cemeteries in Wuppertal, Seligenstadt, Dinslaken, and Helmershausen.

In May the Belgian Nobel Prize winner, Father Dominique Pire, broke ground in Wuppertal for a European Village to be named after Anne Frank. Author Ernst Schnabel and publisher Gottfried Fischer created an Anne Frank Scholarship fund for Israeli students wanting to study or engage in research in West Germany. Anne Frank groups were organized in various German cities, and in May 1959, for the third time, some 8,000 youths staged

a pilgrimage to the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where Anne Frank had spent her last days. The Youth Council, which represented socialist and Christian student organizations, adopted strong resolutions warning against all manifestations of revived antisemitism and requesting a program of "reconciliation with the Jews and rapprochement with Israel."

Erich Lüth, press director of Hamburg, published a pamphlet calling for Arab-Jewish cooperation after his third trip to Israel. In the municipal series "Neues Hamburg," *Die Ueberwindung des Vakuums*, a collection of essays on the persecutions and German-Jewish relations, was published under Lüth's editorship. A report on Israel by Protestant theologian Helmuth Gollwitzer, *Israel und wir* (Lettner Verlag, 1958), stressed that "antisemitism is not a Jewish question but rather a Christian question." Plans for a teachers' exchange with Israel were initiated by religious and municipal institutions. Teachers, students, and indemnification officials visited Israel and reported sympathetically on their return, thus helping to further German understanding of the young state. A documentary film on Israel, "Paradies und Feuerofen," produced by Herbert Victor, received the German Film Prize and the award of the International Catholic Film Bureau. It was shown in German movie theaters with great success. The West Berlin senate in July 1959 paid a special tribute to 19 non-Jewish men and women who had helped and sheltered Jews during the Nazi regime.

ZIONISM AND RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

West German Jews continued to maintain close relations with Israel. Keren ha-Yesod, Keren Kayyemet le-Yisrael, Youth Aliyah, and other campaigns raised sizeable sums in the period under review, totaling between DM 600,000 and 800,000 (\$144,000 and \$190,000).

Zionist groups existed in West Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, and Munich, with a total membership of about 1,000 persons. A Zionist conference, held at Frankfurt in October 1958, was addressed by Herberg Lewin, a professor in Offenbach, and Karl Marx of Düsseldorf, editor and publisher of the *Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland*.

The Friends of the Hebrew University chartered a new branch in Frankfurt in addition to existing chapters in Berlin, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, and Munich. In March Leo Kohn of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem spoke before a small circle of university teachers in Frankfurt on Israel's relations to the surrounding world. Norman Bentwich visited local chapters in June. In July ex-Premier Moses Sharett of Israel led a Mapai delegation at the Socialist International's Hamburg congress.

Nahum Goldmann, president of CJMCAG, WZO, and the Jewish Agency, visited Germany frequently and conferred with Chancellor Adenauer, other government officials, and Jewish community leaders.

The Federal Republic still did not have diplomatic relations with Israel. Until recently the Israelis had been reluctant, and later the West Germans feared that the Arabs would retaliate by recognizing the East German regime and by canceling commercial contracts.

Relations between the two countries were carried on through the Israeli

mission, established in Cologne as a result of the Hague and Luxembourg agreements of 1952 (AJYB, 1953 [Vol. 54], pp. 437, 477-82; 1954 [Vol. 55], pp. 354-55). While primarily a trade mission, it also performed a variety of additional functions of a consular, educational, and informative nature.

Deliveries under the Luxembourg agreement of 1952 proceeded smoothly. Of the total reparations of \$825 million, 55 per cent was utilized between 1952 and 1959.

During the first half of 1959 the Federal Republic's agricultural and industrial imports from Israel were \$10 million, some \$3 million more than in the same period of 1958.

In March Israel for the first time participated officially in a German fair. The Israeli pavilion at the Frankfurt International Fair received great attention from customers and German officials, including Economic Minister Ludwig Erhard. Israel was also represented at the annual Frankfurt Book Fair in October.

A contract for the purchase of DM 12 million (\$3 million) worth of munitions was signed between the Federal Republic and Soltam Ltd. of Haifa in May 1959. German government circles expressed astonishment over the government crisis in Israel (see p. 289) when the deal became public. The Bonn government held that it would have been "an act of discrimination against Israel" not to purchase the well-tested ammunition offered at a favorable price. At the same time it was reported that the defense ministry had concluded an arms deal with Egypt, totaling DM 26 million (\$6.2 million), to "neutralize the negative effect the arms deal with Israel might have on Arab-German relations."

In October the libel trial against European Common Market President Walter Hallstein and West German Ambassador to NATO Herbert Blankenhorn—charged by Hans Strack, a former Middle East expert in the ministry of economics, with making false allegations against him, namely, that he had opposed the Luxembourg agreement because he had been bribed by Arab firms, causing his removal from the Middle East post—exposed to the public some of the difficulties surrounding the Hague reparations negotiations in 1952 and the ratification of the agreement by the federal parliament. Witnesses, including important officials of the foreign ministry, stated that the agreement was much opposed not only by the Nazis but also by members of the government coalition and the ministries, by business circles with interests in the Middle East, and by the Arab countries.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Most forms of social services were rendered by the Central Welfare Office of Jews in Germany (Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland—ZWST), with headquarters in Frankfurt, and its various local offices. It cooperated with JDC, whose main German office was also in Frankfurt, and the UHS office in Munich. ZWST arranged vacations for 122 adults and 600 children during the summer of 1959 at its own Henrietta Szold home in the Black Forest, in the home conducted by the Cologne Jewish community at Soberheim, and at a rented home, Haus Wolfshalden, in Garmisch, Bavaria.

The Federal Youth Plan (Bundesjugendplan), the Jewish Agency, and ZWST jointly financed a trip to Israel by 25 Jewish youth between the ages of 16 and 20. Jewish kindergartens continued their activities in the larger communities. In Berlin JDC conducted an accelerated course for training 12 Jewish kindergarten teachers. Club houses for Jewish youth in Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, and Düsseldorf expanded their activities, with the aid of trained leaders. A home for the aged was dedicated in Neustadt, Rheinland-Pfalz.

ZWST published a bi-monthly bulletin, *Jüdische Sozialarbeit*. A survey on the special needs of the Jewish aged was conducted jointly by JDC, ZWST, and the Frankfurt community. ZWST reported that the need for homes for the aged had been met, and that it was now necessary to concentrate on clinics and residences.

A new problem confronting ZWST was the substantial number of immigrants who came to West Germany with false expectations about indemnification benefits, and who were then unable to earn a livelihood. Problems of reintegration of Jews into German society in respect to employment, housing, and social security were presented in a Zentralat memorandum to Chancellor Adenauer.

Jewish loan associations continued to operate in Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Düsseldorf. Over a period of four years they made 1,600 loans, totaling almost DM 5 million (\$1.2 million).

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The educational and cultural activities of the Jewish communities were stimulated and coordinated by the cultural department of the Zentralat. Many Jewish lecturers, musicians, and artists from various countries participated in the adult-education program. They included Hermann Levin Goldschmidt of Zurich, artist Ludwig Schwerin of Tel-Aviv, and the conductor of the Oratorio de Paris, Max Neumann.

During 1958-59 Stockholm Chief Rabbi Kurt Wilhelm and Adolf Leschnitzer and Hans Kohn, both New York professors, lectured on Jewish subjects at the University of Frankfurt in the Loeb lecture series. An honorary professorship of Jewish studies, established by the philosophical faculty of the same university, was to be occupied by Rabbi Wilhelm.

On November 2, 1958, the anniversary of Leo Baeck's death, the Zentralat and ZWST awarded the second annual Leo Baeck Prize to H. G. Adler, author of a study of the Theresienstadt camp, historian Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich, and the non-Jewish author Erwin Sylvanus, whose Warsaw ghetto play *Korczak und die Kinder* was scheduled to be performed on a number of German stages.

The Zentralat made plans for a central archive and collection of documents on the Nazi persecution. A 44-page brochure, *Dokumente über die Behandlung der Juden durch das Dritte Reich*, was distributed to political personalities, schools, and indemnification officials. The creation of community libraries was stimulated by the Zentralat.

The program of youth conferences on Jewish topics, conducted jointly by ZWST and the Zentralat, lagged in early 1959 because of changes in

personnel. The cultural department supplied non-Jewish groups with information and answered numerous questions about Judaism, Jewish history, and Israel.

The Zentralat preferred to inform the population about Judaism and the Jewish people, rather than to engage in futile arguments with incorrigible antisemites. It participated in cultural activities of various federal and voluntary organizations, such as the review boards for films, youth literature, and illustrated magazines. In Frankfurt the Friends of the Leo Baeck Institute of Jews from Germany organized meetings and a lecture series. Books sponsored by the institute included Selma Stern-Tauebler's *Josel von Rosheim*, Hannah Arendt's *Rahel Varnhagen*, Leo Baeck's *Aus drei Jahrtausenden*, and S. Adler-Rudel's *Ostjuden in Deutschland*.

A Jewish publishing house, Jüdischer Verlag, was founded in West Berlin.

E. M. ORLAND

EAST GERMANY

THE so-called German Democratic Republic (Deutsche Demokratische Republik—DDR) continued its campaign against the "fascist" Bonn government and against the atomic armament of the West German army. DDR's attempts to gain diplomatic recognition from the UAR and its establishment of a consulate general in Cairo were watched with dismay by the Bonn government. A DDR trade mission headed by Premier Otto Grotewohl visited Egypt in January. At the same time DDR representatives distributed propaganda literature in the Middle East countries, denouncing the Luxembourg agreement of 1952 between West Germany and Israel as "an act of hostility" against the Arab nations.

In the November elections for the Volkskammer (parliament), 99.87 per cent of the eligible voters cast their ballots for the sole ticket, that of the National Front. Otto Grotewohl and Walter Ulbricht continued as premier and deputy premier.

In January the Volkskammer approved a plan to increase industrial and agricultural production within the current five-year plan. The production of consumers' goods in 1959 and through the five-year plan was to be increased, with the announced aim of surpassing the West German standard of living. In July prices for food products were lowered. Trade relations with the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, and Iraq were strengthened, and an agreement for an exchange of scientists with the Soviet Union was signed.

A status-quo agreement was reached in July 1958 with the German Evangelical church (EKD). Nevertheless, in October Heinrich Grueber withdrew under protest from his post as plenipotentiary of the Evangelicals to the Soviet German government, saying that he was unable to work with DDR officials and that his job had become superfluous. In June 1959 the Evangelical church protested that the DDR was not fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

Purges against "revisionism" in the cultural field and at the universities continued. A series of treason trials were held against youths charged with

being Western agents. Although greater social opportunities for middle-class groups and greater ideological freedom for scientists were announced in September, the exodus from East Germany continued. The West German government announced that 74,377 persons had fled East Germany during the first six months of 1959. Almost half of the refugees were less than 25 years old. Among those seeking political asylum were about 200 university teachers and assistants. In January the chief of the East German intelligence service, Siegfried Dombrowsky, fled to West Berlin.

Jewish Community

The Jewish community of East Berlin had approximately 900 members. About 600 registered Jews lived in Leipzig, Dresden, Erfurt, Magdeburg, Halle, Plauen, Schwerin, and Karl-Marx-Stadt (formerly Chemnitz). Synagogues existed in a few of these cities, but none of them had an officiating rabbi. There were no Jewish schools or public cultural activities. Jews still prominent in Soviet German cultural life included the artist Herbert Sandberg, author Arnold Zweig, and composers Hanns Eisler and Max Michailow.

Propaganda

East German newspapers reported extensively on antisemitism in the Federal Republic, calling it a symptom of capitalism and imperialism, and stressed the Nazi past of West German politicians, government officials, and members of the judiciary. In turn, the West Berlin Investigation Committee of Free Lawyers published in April 1959 its second list of former Nazis in influential political and economic positions in the Soviet zone. This revealed that 47 deputies in the East German parliament, most of them belonging to the bourgeois parties, had been members of the Nazi party. The revelation that a member of the central committee of the Communist Socialist Unity party (Sozialistische Einheit Partei—SED), Ernst Grossman, had been an SS guard in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp led to his removal. In the case of others listed by the West Berlin lawyers, it was unofficially stated during a television program that they had regretted their mistakes, and that the only thing that mattered was “who is working for peace today.”

In June the Jewish cemetery at the Schonhauser Allee in East Berlin was desecrated. Soviet officials called it the “work of agents from West Berlin.”

At the site of the Ravensbrück concentration camp a monument was dedicated in the presence of Soviet government officials. Jews were mentioned incidentally.

E. M. ORLAND

AUSTRIA *

THE general election on May 10, 1959, led to the reconstruction of the 15-year-old coalition between the People's (Catholic) party and the Socialists. Both parties together had about 90 per cent of the votes. The Nazi-tinged Freedom party gained over 50,000 votes and its percentage rose from

* For meaning of abbreviations, see p. 359.

6.5 to 7.7, giving it eight seats as against six in 1956; in 1953 it had received 11 per cent of the votes. The Communists, dropping from 4.4 to 3.3 per cent, lost the three seats they had had in the outgoing parliament.

TABLE 1
GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1956 AND 1959
Per Cent
of Vote

Party	<i>Per Cent of Vote</i>		<i>Seats</i>	
	1956	1959	1956	1959
People's	46.0	44.2	82	79
Socialist	43.1	44.8	74	78
Freedom	6.5	7.7	6	8
Communist ..	4.4	3.3	3	0
TOTAL	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>165</u>

The 1959 elections arose out of the refusal of the People's party to continue the coalition. After the election and the negotiations made necessary by the Socialist gains, a new cabinet, headed by Julius Raab, chancellor since 1953, took oath of office on July 16, 1959.

Leopold Figl (Catholic) became speaker of parliament. He was succeeded as foreign minister by the Socialist Bruno Kreisky, the only Jew in the cabinet. Reinhard Kamitz (Catholic), whose policy had been attacked by the Socialists, remained as finance minister, but Vice Chancellor Bruno Pittermann (Socialist) obtained a voice in the control of the nationalized industries. Of the other changes, the most important was the departure of Oskar Helmer (Socialist), minister of the interior since 1945, who had shaped Austria's liberal policy toward refugees, especially the Hungarians who escaped to Austria after the upheaval of 1956. For his outstanding work on behalf of refugees, Helmer was awarded the Nansen Medal for 1959; the medal was established in 1954 by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Yugoslavia complained about the treatment of the small Slovene minority in Austrian Carinthia. The Austrian foreign minister accused Italy of having infringed on the local autonomy guaranteed in the Paris agreement of September 1946 to the German-speaking population in the Italian province of Alto Adige (South Tyrol). Czechoslovakia protested against the Sudeten German rally held in Vienna in May 1959. The Austrian government permitted the Communist-sponsored World Festival of Youth to be held in Vienna in the summer of 1959.

Refugees

The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) reported that on January 1, 1959, there were in Austria 56,000 refugees under the protection of UNHCR, 11,400 of them in camps. Of those in camps, 4,600 were old refugees, 5,000 were new refugees from Hungary, and 1,800 were newcomers from Yugoslavia. Up to the end of 1958 the total number in Austria of those who escaped from Hungary after the revolt of 1956 was 14,900.

There were also, according to Austrian sources, another 32,000 refugees not under the jurisdiction of UNHCFR. Between 1945 and 1956 Austria gave sanctuary to more than 1,500,000 refugees, of whom 275,000 were granted Austrian citizenship.

Jewish Population

The total Austrian population was 7,021,000.

There was little important change in the membership of the Kultusgemeinden or in the old refugee population. The number of new Jewish refugees from Hungary decreased from nearly 1,100 on June 30, 1958, to slightly under 400 a year later. The data on the Jewish population in Austria were available only for the membership of the Jewish communities and refugees registered with JDC. The total number of Jews in Austria was not known, but was probably somewhat higher than the following table would indicate.

TABLE 2
AUSTRIAN JEWISH POPULATION, 1958-59

<i>Location</i>	<i>As of June 30</i>	
	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>
Gemeinden		
Vienna	9,283	9,371
Graz, Innsbruck, Linz, Salzburg.	674	660
Camps—Old refugees	60	60
Refugees from Hungary in and outside of camps	1,076	398
TOTAL	11,093	10,489

Immigration from East European countries and repatriation offset emigration and the high death rate among the members of the Viennese Kultusgemeinde.

TABLE 3
CHANGES IN VIENNESE KULTUSGEMEINDE'S MEMBERSHIP, 1958-59

	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959 (January 1 to June 30)</i>
Immigration	681	503
Births	57	35
Conversions to Judaism	16	10
TOTAL INCREASE	754	548
Emigration	473	213
Deaths	277	121
Resignations	75	54
TOTAL DECREASE	825	388
NET INCREASE	-71	160

The age structure of the Viennese Kultusgemeinde remained about the same—few children and many elderly persons.

TABLE 4
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE VIENNESE KULTUSGEMEINDE'S
MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 1958

Age	Number	Per Cent
0 - 6	170	1.8
7 - 14	686	7.5
15 - 18	171	1.9
19 - 40	1,514	16.5
41 - 60	3,253	35.4
Over 60	3,389	36.9
TOTAL	9,183 ^a	100.0
Male	4,782	52.1
Female	4,401	47.9

^a In March 1959 Vienna had a population of 1,652,427.

Jewish Community

A major concern of the Jewish community was the problem of indemnification. The Kultusgemeinde election in Vienna, due at the end of 1958, was postponed for a year so that the Jewish community could concentrate its energy on urging the Austrian government to adopt adequate indemnification legislation.

The Viennese Kultusgemeinde depended on the help of CJMCAG and JDC. Community taxes and cemetery fees accounted for only some 30 per cent of the 1959 budget. The deficit in the regular budget of 9,405,000 schillings (\$1 = 26 schillings) was 2,996,000 schillings (*Die Gemeinde*, December 19, 1958).

The Viennese Gemeinde gave welfare assistance to 650 persons a month, most of them aged, unemployable or unemployed. It maintained a home for the aged (150 residents), a hospital (50 patients), and vacation colonies for children and old people. In March the Gemeinde organized an exhibit of modern paintings from Israel. A "Senioren Klub" functioned on the premises of the Gemeinde. A kosher canteen, financed by JDC, served more than 200 persons a month in 1958.

The Jewish day school in Vienna (AJYB, 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 202) had about 40 pupils. It was recognized by the Viennese school authorities and had equal rights with other elementary schools. Other Jewish educational institutions in Austria included four Talmud Torahs and four kindergartens, with a combined enrollment of nearly 400. In addition, more than 300 children in Vienna and some 20 in Salzburg attended religious classes.

The Jewish Credit Cooperative in Vienna, sponsored by JDC, made 118 loans (\$91,108) in 1958 and 58 (\$50,700) during the first six months of 1959. The total number of loans granted by the cooperative since its inception in 1949 came to 1,053 (\$646,338).

The Hakoah sports club celebrated its 50th anniversary in June 1959.

Jewish Refugees

The number of new Hungarian refugees under the care of JDC in Austria decreased from 1,076 on June 30, 1958, to 398 on June 30, 1959. Of these, 206 were in camps (including 133 in Camp Asten) and 192 in communities, mostly in the Vienna area. The mixed (Jews and non-Jews) Camp Asten also sheltered a group of 60 old refugees supported by JDC.

The all-Jewish camps at Rothschild Hospital in Vienna, which sheltered thousands of Jewish DPs after World War II, and Camp Korneuburg, which accommodated new Hungarian refugees after December 1956, were closed during the period under review.

Between August 1958 and the end of February 1959, some 15,000 Jewish emigrants from Rumania arrived in Vienna en route to Israel. They were cared for by the Jewish Agency for Israel and also benefited from the JDC-financed kosher canteen. This movement ended in March 1959, when the Rumanian government stopped issuing passports (p. 274).

Indemnification

In May 1959 negotiations begun in the fall of 1958 led to an agreement on indemnification between Austria and the Western signatories of the Austrian State Treaty of 1955. The Austrian government agreed to establish a fund for the settlement of certain claims of persons who, between March 13, 1938, and May 8, 1945, sustained specified property losses because of their religion or racial origin. These losses comprised confiscation or forced transfers of bank accounts, securities, etc., and punitive taxes against Jews (Reichsfluchtsteuer and Judenvermögensabgabe). The fund, established under Article 26 of the Austrian State Treaty, was to total \$6,000,000 plus \$600,000 for administrative expenses. Austrian legislation implementing the agreement was held up first by the dissolution of the parliament and then by delays in forming a new government.

The reaction of the Jewish community to the projected \$6,000,000 fund was mixed. It was feared that the plan would create a climate unfavorable to the long-overdue adoption of indemnification legislation patterned after the German laws. Since an estimated 98 per cent of the prospective beneficiaries of the fund lived abroad, the Jewish community in Vienna asked that parliament simultaneously pass the 12th Novelle (amendment) to the Opferfürsorgegesetz (relief-of-victims law; AJYB, 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 203) and laws providing compensation for the destruction of synagogues and other communal properties. In July 1959 Chancellor Raab declared that his cabinet felt duty-bound to give just compensation to the Jewish community for damages suffered under Nazi rule.

An amendment of March 18, 1959, to the War and Persecution Damages Law of 1958 (AJYB, 1959 [Vol. 60], p. 203), enlarged the category of beneficiaries, ended the deduction of the payments from the Assistance Fund (*ibid.*) and extended the deadline for filing claims from June 30 to December 31, 1959. There were some minor changes in the regulations concerning the registration centers for heirless property established in 1957, but the promulgation of the fourth Rückstellungsgesetz (restitution law) was still pending.

By April 30, 1959, the Assistance Fund had paid out more than 395 million schillings (175 million to beneficiaries in the United States, 66 million in Israel, 64 million in England, and 91 million in other countries). It was assumed that the 550-million-schilling Assistance Fund would be paid out by the end of 1960, i.e., in four years instead of the ten years envisaged in the law which had set up the Assistance Fund in 1956.

Intergroup Relations

The Jewish community repeatedly called attention to the antidemocratic and antisemitic tendencies of certain groups and organizations, some of which concealed their actual purposes behind antirestitution slogans. Thus, the Freedom party supported the attempts of the beneficiaries from Hitler rule (Schutzverband Rückstellungsbetroffener—Protective Association of Persons Affected by Restitution) to obtain compensation for their losses under the existing modest restitution legislation, besides sponsoring a welfare committee to aid former Nazis imprisoned after 1945. This party also did not answer an appeal from Action Against Antisemitism in Austria, asking the four main political parties to pledge themselves to oppose antisemitic activities, whereas the Catholic, Socialist, and Communist parties gave it their support.

The Viennese Gemeinde protested the appointment of Hermann Neubacher, Vienna's first Nazi mayor, to an important post in the state airlines. The publications of the Gemeinde charged that he was responsible for the destruction of the Viennese synagogues in November 1938, since he forbade the city's fire brigades to save the burning buildings. Neubacher, however, won a libel suit against these publications because they could not prove that he personally gave the order not to extinguish the synagogue fires.

In October 1958 the ministry of the interior under Oskar Helmer dissolved a neo-Nazi movement known as SOBRE (Sozialorganische Ordnungsbewegung Europas)—it appealed the decision to the Constitutional Tribunal—and in February 1959 an organization called Patriotic Austrian Soldiers. In June it banned the wearing of decorations of the Hitler era and the holding of military exercises by nationalistic groups. In April the Union of Young People's Vacation Homes (Jugendherbergswerk) struck from its membership rolls the pro-Nazi Heimattreue Jugend, affiliated with the Nazi-tainted Arbeitsgemeinschaft nationaler Jugendverbände Österreichs (ANJO). ANJO's publication *Der Trommler* was seized twice in January 1959 and its editor was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. A former Gestapo official, Josef Gabriel, received a life term in March 1959 for the murder of Jews in Galicia during World War II.

In June 1958 the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities established a Crystal Night Commemorative Medal (Crystal Night was the night of November 10, 1938, when Jewish property was widely destroyed in Austria and Germany on orders from Hitler) to be awarded annually to non-Jews outstanding in the fight against antisemitism and neo-Nazism. The first medal went to Mayor Ernst Koref of Linz.

Personalia

On April 11, 1959, Emil Maurer, president of the Vienna Gemeinde and of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Austria, celebrated his 75th birthday. He received congratulations from President Adolf Schärf and many other Austrian leaders.

Wilhelm Krell, executive director of the Viennese Gemeinde and of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Austria, was appointed to the Austrian Privy Council in February 1959.

Theodore D. Feder, JDC director in Vienna, and Albert Goldman, ORT director for Austria, were awarded the Gold Medal for Meritorious Service to the Republic of Austria. Egon Fink, deputy director of JDC, received the Medal of Merit.

BORIS SAPIR