

# Southern Africa

---

## Political Developments

**T**HROUGHOUT Southern Africa, 1966 was a turbulent year. In the Republic of South Africa, Prime Minister Hendrik F. Verwoerd led the Nationalists to a sweeping election victory, only to be assassinated a few months later. In a decision generally regarded as a victory for South Africa, the International Court of Justice refused to pass on the merits of the suit by Ethiopia and Liberia to invalidate South Africa's administration of South West Africa. The United Nations General Assembly then adopted a resolution revoking the mandate over South West Africa, declaring that it reverted to direct UN jurisdiction, and setting up a committee to consider ways of asserting this authority.

Elsewhere, the High Commission territories of Bechuanaland and Basutoland became the independent states of Botswana and Lesotho. The conflict precipitated by Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence in 1965 continued and intensified, with political and economic repercussions throughout the entire area.

### *South Africa*

The South African economy remained prosperous in 1966. South Africa benefited to some extent from the Rhodesian conflict. For example, Zambia, seeking to reduce her own trade with Rhodesia, found South Africa the best available substitute source of some manufactured goods and coal. The government sought to curb a sharp inflationary trend by imposing credit and price controls, and relaxing restrictions on imports.

In the campaign leading to the South African general election of March 30, the opposition United party charged that the Verwoerd government was giving inadequate support to the Smith regime in Rhodesia, and that it was opening the way to a partition of South Africa by promising eventual independence to the "Bantustans" established under the program of "separate development." The first charge did not impress the electorate since the government, while officially neutral and withholding formal recognition from the Smith regime, was giving it massive assistance in counteracting the effects of sanctions. South Africa was Rhodesia's chief source of oil and other essential

commodities which could no longer be obtained from such normal suppliers as Britain and the United States. To the second charge, Verwoerd replied that complete independence for Bantustans was essential since "Minority control cannot endure in a multi-national and multi-racial society."

In the elections, the Nationalists received 758,345 votes; a total of 537,415 votes were cast for all opposition candidates. Although the vote may not have been completely representative of the electorate—there were many uncontested seats and only the Nationalists and the United party had candidates in most constituencies—it did indicate far greater support of the Nationalists than in the past. They now held 126 seats out of 170 in the new parliament, as against 106 out of 160 in the old. The United party lost 10 seats; the Progressives, the only party with a platform of opposition to racial discrimination, suffered sharp losses. However the one Progressive member of parliament, Mrs. Helen Suzman, retained her seat with an increased majority; she was backed by most English-language newspapers.

Interpreting the election results as an endorsement of eventual independence for the Bantustans, Verwoerd declared that friction would disappear when "the nations of Southern Africa realize that they can only develop their territories and countries properly if they leave one another alone."

In practice, however, "separate development" was slow in taking place. The populations of the projected Bantustans (only one, in the Transkei, had so far been organized) were dependent on employment in "white" areas; most of the funds for the economic development of the Bantustans had been spent on creating industries just outside their borders. Moreover, the chronic labor shortage caused by South Africa's rapid economic development led to the employment of more, rather than fewer, native workers in the cities where they were not allowed to live.

Serious shortages in some occupations moved the government to relax some occupational restrictions on the "native" population: Thus Africans were permitted to attend the universities of Cape Town and Witwatersrand to study engineering because there were no segregated schools which offered such training. They continued to enter other occupations previously reserved for whites, often under titles which disguised this fact and almost always at a small fraction of the wages paid to European workers for the same tasks. After the failure of a government-backed attempt to upgrade African workers in the mines (AJYB, 1966 [Vol. 67], p. 448) an extremist faction of white miners which had led the successful resistance to the upgrading captured control of the white Mineworkers Union from the leaders who had accepted the plan. A new agreement later permitted some upgrading.

At the invitation of the interracial National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York visited South Africa in June. The government granted him a visa but refused entry to foreign correspondents or photographers to cover his "purely private" visit.

During his stay Kennedy spoke out against racism at Cape Town, Stellen-

bosch, and Witwatersrand universities. The government ignored his presence and officials refused to be interviewed. The government imposed restrictions on the movement and activities of NUSAS president Ian Robertson, who had extended the invitation and arranged the visit, on charges which ostensibly had nothing to do with Kennedy's trip and which proved to be unfounded on the basis of evidence brought forward in parliament. The restrictions were later modified.

Penal and administrative measures against dissenters continued. In July, banned persons (interned or restricted as to residence, barred from public activity, and not to be quoted in the press) included 467 listed as Communists, 515 banned under the Suppression of Communism and Riotous Assemblies Acts, and 39 Africans banished (i.e., required to remain in some isolated spot) under the Native Administration Act.

The trial of Abraham Fischer, a leading attorney whose grandfather had been prime minister of the Orange Free State, was the year's most spectacular. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of holding key positions in the Communist party and conspiring to commit sabotage. Fischer had denied any part in sabotage.

Harold Strachan, a former political prisoner and the fourth person to be tried and convicted of having falsely charged that he and others had been tortured in prison, was sentenced in January to two years and six months' imprisonment (AJYB, 1966 [Vol. 67], p. 449).

In July the International Court of Justice dismissed a complaint by Ethiopia and Liberia against the imposition of *apartheid* in the mandated territory of South West Africa. After hearing the evidence, the court reversed a 1962 ruling and voted 8 to 7 that Ethiopia and Liberia had no standing to sue and that it therefore found it unnecessary to decide on the merits of the case. The United Nations General Assembly, on October 27, passed a resolution declaring that South Africa had not fulfilled its obligations under the mandate that, therefore, the mandate was at an end, and that South West Africa was henceforth a direct UN responsibility. South Africa announced that it would neither recognize nor give effect to the resolution. Before the resolution was adopted the parliament had voted to extend all South African security legislation to South West Africa. It also purchased some European-owned land in South West Africa on which Bantustans were to be established.

On September 6 Prime Minister Verwoerd was stabbed to death in parliament. His assassin, a temporary parliamentary messenger and a native of Mozambique named Dimitri Tsafendas, was later adjudged insane. Balthazar J. Vorster, who succeeded Verwoerd as prime minister, was known as a hardliner. As Minister of Justice in the Verwoerd cabinet, he had been in direct charge of the government's repressive measures, and, when he became Prime Minister, he announced that he would retain personal control of the police. Although it was expected that his policies would be essentially the same as Verwoerd's, there were some minor relaxations.

## Rhodesia

There was little change in the Rhodesian situation in 1966. A long round of "discussions about discussions" led up to a meeting between British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith on board HMS *Tiger* in the Mediterranean at the beginning of December. This meeting brought forth a series of proposals providing, in essence, for a gradual transition to majority rule, with an immediate increase in African representation and participation in the government. An interim coalition government under Governor-General Humphrey Gibbs was to hold office while a Royal Commission sought the views of the European and African population of Rhodesia on the plan. The plan was accepted by the British cabinet, but the Rhodesian cabinet turned it down because it was unwilling to surrender power in the interim period. The Rhodesian Front members of parliament unanimously supported the rejection. Lord Malvern, prime minister of Southern Rhodesia from 1933 to 1964 and later prime minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, called on the government to accept the British proposals. In South Africa, the Nationalist newspaper *Die Burger* urged Rhodesia to surrender its independence on the ground that it was embarrassing its friends.

After the collapse of negotiations with the Rhodesian regime, Britain asked for selective economic sanctions against Rhodesia in the United Nations. The resolution voted in December was somewhat stronger than Britain had desired, but lacked the teeth that the African bloc tried to insert. It called on all nations to refrain from purchasing Rhodesia's principal exports, and from selling it various goods, including oil. It did not, however, provide for any sanctions against countries which failed to cooperate.

It was questionable whether mandatory sanctions would be much more effective than the voluntary ones already in effect, which had cut Rhodesia's foreign trade by about one-third and damaged rather than disrupted the economy. Oil sanctions had been particularly ineffective for South Africa sent ample substitute supplies by road and rail when Mozambique stopped the flow of petroleum. Perhaps half of the tobacco crop had remained unsold because of the British boycott; in spite of sanctions reduced prices brought some customers, reportedly including the French tobacco monopoly, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Communist China.

Internally, the government continued to maintain a state of emergency. The imposition of censorship made an appraisal of the extent of resistance on the part of the African population difficult. It was reported that a number of Africans were imprisoned for sabotage or rioting and numerous others were held in detention camps; some were even sentenced to death. Europeans were also penalized or interned under the emergency regulations.

The arrest and detention of African students and government interference with the administration of the University College of Rhodesia led to many

incidents. Several teachers of foreign nationality were arrested and deported and some Rhodesian teachers were imprisoned on various charges.

In September the High Court ruled that, while the Smith regime and the constitution it had proclaimed in 1965 were illegal, the regime was the only one existing *de facto*, and the courts were therefore bound to give effect to any actions it had the power to take under the 1961 constitution. This included the emergency regulations under which detentions could be ordered without trial.

### *Zambia and Malawi*

The Rhodesian conflict affected the economy of Zambia more seriously than that of any other nation. Rhodesia had been Zambia's main supplier of consumer goods and raw materials; most of Zambia's electricity came from the Kariba hydroelectric plant, which she owned jointly with Rhodesia but which were located on the Rhodesian side of the Zambesi river, and, prior to 1965, all Zambia's copper had been exported by the jointly-owned Rhodesian Railways. Although Zambia succeeded in finding new suppliers for many imports formerly obtained from Rhodesia and producing some previously imported products herself, she was unable to do without others, including a good deal of coal. And, despite the development of alternative rail routes through the Congo and Malawi and new roads and air routes at considerable expense, she still needed to use Rhodesian Railways for the export of about half her copper.

In December Zambian Foreign Minister Simon Kapwepwe estimated that economic dislocations due to the Rhodesian situation had cost the country some \$84,000,000 during the year. Nevertheless Zambia prospered, due to the decision of the copper companies, in April, to sell at the world market price instead of the lower price they had previously maintained. The Zambian government was able to start a four-year plan of over a billion dollars to develop industry, transportation, and education. This was one of the highest per capita investment rates in the world.

Politically, Zambia continued to function as a multi-party parliamentary democracy. The United National Independence party of President Kenneth D. Kaunda continued to have the support of an overwhelming majority of the population.

In August, the all-white National Progress party dissolved on the ground that its existence was no longer appropriate, and its 10 members in parliament, who held seats reserved for the European minority, were left free to follow whatever political course they saw fit. James Skinner, who was appointed Minister for Legal Affairs at the end of the year, became the first cabinet member of European descent since independence.

Malawi continued to be a one-party state under the almost absolute rule of President Hastings Kamuzu Banda. A number of former cabinet members

and some of their followers remained in exile; there were occasional small-scale incursions of exiles, based on Tanzania. Relations between Malawi and Tanzania remained strained, despite some attempts to improve them; relations with Zambia, on the other hand, were good. Malawi also maintained fairly close economic ties and avoided outright conflict with Rhodesia, the Republic of South Africa, and Portuguese-ruled Mozambique.

### *Botswana and Lesotho*

The High Commission territories of Bechuanaland and Basutoland became the independent states of Botswana and Lesotho on September 30 and October 4, respectively. Before the end of the year both states had joined the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. They were also members of the Rand currency zone (using the currency of the Republic of South Africa), and of the South African Customs Union.

Both politically and economically, Botswana's situation appeared to be somewhat more favorable than that of Lesotho. Besides the cattle which she had long exported, Botswana had potentially important mineral resources. Lesotho, however, had little arable land and no other known natural resources except mountain torrents that could become a source of electricity and water for export to South Africa. It was almost without roads and had only a few miles of railroad tracks. Lesotho was entirely surrounded by South Africa; Botswana bordered on Rhodesia and, for a very short stretch, on Zambia as well. Botswana and Lesotho were alike in that most of their working population was employed in South Africa.

President Seretse Khama of Botswana had the support of a large majority of the electorate, and a great deal of personal prestige. Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan of Lesotho, on the other hand, headed a party which had won only 32 per cent of the vote; the division of its opponents had given it a bare parliamentary majority. He was also sharply at odds with King Moeshoeshoe II. Throughout the year there were constitutional conflicts between the prime minister and the king and demonstrations by supporters of the king and the opposition parties, who had formed an alliance. By threatening to depose the king, Chief Jonathan forced him to surrender his constitutional powers and to submit to something approximating house arrest. The political situation remained unstable.

While neither state could afford to antagonize South Africa or attempt to cut economic ties with that country, there were significant differences in their attitudes. Jonathan, who reportedly had received assistance from South Africa during the election campaign, made it clear that he wanted close relations with that country. He conferred with both Premier Verwoerd and his successor, and was the only African chief of state at Verwoerd's funeral. Seretse Khama, on the other hand, expressed his reluctance to establish diplomatic relations with South Africa; he felt that, although an African diplomat in that country would be subject to "countless indignities," such relations were

necessary "for the sake of survival." At the same time, he sought to cultivate close political and economic ties with other countries, especially Zambia. He also visited Israel and arranged for Israeli technical assistance in agriculture.

MAURICE J. GOLDBLOOM

## South African Jewish Community

**T**HE LATEST official population figure for the Jews in South Africa, reported by the 1960 census, was 116,066 in a European (white) population of 3,088,492 and a total population (all races) of 16,002,797.\* Unofficial estimates, based on South African Jewry's 1936-60 rate of increase (less an allowance for emigration) suggested that the community had grown to about 120,000 in 1966.

### CIVIC AND POLITICAL STATUS

Jews continued to participate as full and equal citizens in all branches of national life. In the general election of March 30 (p. 447) four Jews (all outgoing members of parliament) were reelected: Solomon Emdin and Ephraim Leonard Fisher (both United party), Simon Frank (National party) and Helen Suzman (Progressive party). Two Jewish members of parliament, Hyman Miller and Leonard Barnett Taurog (both United party), were defeated. There was no antisemitism in the election campaign. Charles Barnett and Abe Bloomberg remained in office as members of parliament elected on a separate slate to represent Cape Coloured voters, and E. B. Woolf continued in office as a senator.

South African Jewry's central representative institution, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, conveyed the community's congratulations to the State President Charles Robberts Swart on the occasion of the national festival in May, marking the fifth anniversary of the establishment of South Africa as a republic. Surveys in the Jewish press reviewed the contributions of the Jews to the country.

When news of Premier Verwoerd's assassination on September 6 reached the people, Jews joined with all other citizens in expressing horror at the crime and offering their condolences to the government and the bereaved family. Leaders of the rabbinate, the Board of Deputies and the Zionist Federation represented the Jewish community at the state funeral in Pretoria. Mourning services were held in synagogues, as in churches, throughout the country. In their sermons at the main services, Orthodox Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper (Johannesburg) and Israel Abrahams (Cape Town), and Reform Rabbis Arthur Super (Johannesburg) and David Sherman (Cape Town) paid homage to Verwoerd's statesmanship and integrity, and eulogized his advance from an anti-Jewish attitude during the Hitler era to an understanding of the Jewish community, and the maintenance of equal rights for Jewish citizens and denunciation of antisemitism during his premiership.

\* For more details, AJYB, Vol. 67 (1966), p. 451.

In accordance with custom, a delegation from the Board of Deputies called upon the new prime minister on December 5 to convey to him the good wishes of South African Jewry. Vorster received the delegation cordially and affirmed his good will toward the Jewish community.

Concern was expressed over the omission in a bill for the establishment of an Afrikaans university in Johannesburg—introduced in parliament in October—of the traditional “conscience clause” in South African university legislation, which prohibited any test of conscience or religious belief in staff appointments or the admission of students. The bill made appointments subject to academic and administrative qualifications and subscription to the preamble of the republic’s constitution affirming God’s guidance in the destinies of South Africa, which the press criticized as a concealed religious test.

The Board of Deputies made representations to the minister of education and the sponsors of the bill to retain the “conscience clause.” The sponsors were not prepared to do this, but they amended the bill by transferring the constitutional reference to its preamble (where it did not have the force of law) and rephrasing the clause on staff appointments and student admission to make it clear that these would be governed by merit alone. The minister assured parliament that there would be no discrimination on religious grounds. The Board of Deputies welcomed this assurance (which covered the interests of the Jewish community), but found it no substitute for the “conscience clause.” The opposition (with the exception of the lone Progressive Helen Suzman), however, accepted the amended draft and the bill was passed without the clause.

In December three Jews were among the new appointees to the bench. R. N. Leon, Q.C., who had been serving as an acting judge, became a judge of the Natal bench; N. C. Addleson, S.C., a judge of the Eastern Province bench; and Cecil Margo, S.C., an acting judge on the Transvaal bench. In August Percy Yutar, deputy attorney general of the Transvaal, advanced to senior deputy attorney general. Walter Gradner was reelected mayor of Cape Town and Gustav Haberkfeld, mayor of Kimberley. David Lazarus, a past mayor of East London, was again elected that city’s first citizen. Several other towns had Jewish mayors and deputy mayors.

### *Antisemitism*

In September the South African Council to Combat Communism arranged an “International Symposium on Communism” in Pretoria. The lecturers included Professor Stefan Possony, Director of the Hoover Institute on Peace, War and Revolution at Stanford University (United States), Major Edgar Bundy, Secretary of the Church League of America (United States), Mme. Suzanne Labin, president of the International Conference on Political Warfare (France), and Major-General H. J. van den Bergh, chief of South Africa’s Security Police. In the course of his address, van den Bergh said that he was often asked why so many of “our Jewish friends” were listed as Com-

munists and why so many had been arrested for sabotage. He believed that Jews "tend to be involved" because Communism was "an extreme form of Capitalism." In a description of the police raid on Lilliesleaf Farm, Rivonia, in 1963 (in which three Jews were among several persons arrested on charges of planning sabotage and armed revolution; AJYB, 1964 [Vol. 65], pp. 339-40), he mentioned that the police had found the group's "action plan" lying on a table, obviously overlooked in the panic. He added jokingly: "You know, when a Jew gets scared, he gets very scared."

Van den Bergh's remarks evoked sharp criticism in the Jewish press and community. Board of Deputies' chairman Maurice Porter condemned them as "out of place and offensive, coming especially from a person occupying Major-General van den Bergh's responsible position." Zionist Federation chairman Edel Horwitz said they were "deplorable and offensive and would be resented by all right-thinking people."

Van den Bergh issued a statement denying antisemitic intent. He said he did not hold any racial group responsible for the fact that some of its members had become Communists. "I make no such allegations against the Jewish community and I would like to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the particular help and personal friendship which I received from Jews in my extremely difficult task in the fight against Communism and sabotage."

At the same symposium, Professor Possony, speaking at a later session, warned against introducing antisemitism into the fight against Communism and, in a careful historical analysis, exploded the "Jews and Communism" myth.

This myth was especially exploited by a group called The Patriots' Society for Race Friendship in its publication *Boomerang*, which leaned heavily on the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* forgery and suggested, among other things, that the assassination of President Kennedy was part of a Zionist "international conspiracy." In a letter to the *Southern African Jewish Times*, the society took exception to being attacked as antisemitic; an editorial reply in the *Jewish Times* cited chapter and verse from *Boomerang* to substantiate the charge.

## COMMUNAL ORGANIZATION

Communal expansion marked time in 1966, as problems of fund raising awaited solution. The Board of Deputies continued its varied work, acting as spokesman for the community on matters of Jewish concern; cultivating good relations between Jews and non-Jews; exercising vigilance against antisemitism; coordinating Jewish communal work; sponsoring cultural programs; assisting small rural communities in maintaining Jewish life; servicing Jewish youth, and administering the United Communal Fund designed to help finance the leading national Jewish organizations.

In July Gustav Saron completed thirty years of service as the Board's general secretary, top post in South African Jewry's "civil service," and was

suitably feted by communal leaders. Johannesburg-born, Saron lectured in classics and Hebrew at the Witwatersrand University before practising law and joining the staff of the Board of Deputies. He played a key part in combatting Nazi propaganda in South Africa during the Hitler years, and in expanding the Board's scope and activities. In lieu of taking a sabbatical leave, Saron embarked, in October, on a five-months' study tour of Jewish communities in the United States, Europe, and Israel.

The 13th national conference of the Union of Jewish Women of Southern Africa (AJYB, 1966 [Vol. 67], p. 453), held in Johannesburg in April, reviewed the widening services rendered by this representative women's organization through its 60 branches throughout the country. It engaged in goodwill work between Jews and non-Jews; participated in local welfare activities; sponsored friendship clubs and other services for the aged; ran day nurseries and soup kitchens for non-whites; did volunteer work in hospitals, and conducted an expanding adult education division providing audio-visual programs on Jewish and general cultural themes. The Union also participated in work to assist certain Israeli institutions; worked with the Board of Deputies in servicing youth, and conducted the women's campaign for the United Communal Fund. Pearl Mandelstam was elected to succeed Sylvia Silverman as the Union's national president, a position she had held before.

South African Jewish communal leaders participated in world Jewish conferences (World Jewish Congress, COJO, CJMCAG, World Council on Jewish Education), held in Brussels and Geneva in July.

Saul Joftes, director-general of B'nai B'rith's Office of International Affairs, Washington, D.C., toured South Africa in August and laid the foundations for eight new lodges, making a total of 20 in Southern Africa. During his visit, Joftes was received by Premier Verwoerd, who expressed interest in B'nai B'rith's work and commended the contribution of Jews to South Africa.

At its biennial conference in Johannesburg in June, the Hebrew Order of David, largest South African Jewish fraternal organization, reported its expansion to 27 affiliated lodges throughout the country. Harry Friedgut was elected to succeed Sam Jacobsohn as the order's grand president.

### *Fund Raising*

In February Board of Deputies' chairman Maurice Porter told a meeting of deputies that the multiplication of fund-raising appeals and the overlapping of campaigns were impeding the United Communal Fund and blocking communal expansion. In March, Deputies' vice-chairman David Mann reported a meeting between leaders of the Board, the Zionist Federation, and the Board of Jewish Education, which resulted in agreement to rationalize and coordinate the main fund-raising appeals. Gustav Saron reported in May that the agreement had been "thrown back into the melting pot" because of claims advanced by the Zionist Federation. In June, Sydney Walt, chairman of the Cape council of the Board of Deputies, stated at his organization's annual

conference that "a position of near-chaos" had been reached in fund raising. He urged new efforts to secure agreement on priorities, regulation of targets, and spacing of campaigns.

In September Neill Maisels, chairman of the United Communal Fund's national planning committee, reported that the fund was running substantially short of its goal because the standard of contribution was too low and the number of workers inadequate. Shortage of funds also hampered the South African Board of Jewish Education. Lord Segal of Wytham came from England, and former Johannesburg Chief Rabbi Louis Rabinowitz from Israel to launch a drive for the Board's Judge Kuper Foundation Bursary Fund in Johannesburg in April. The response was substantial. In the Cape, a special emergency appeal had to be made to augment funds for Jewish education.

### *Religion*

Dr. Israel Bersohn, president of the Federation of Synagogues of South Africa, told delegates to its national conference in Johannesburg in June that the federation now included most Orthodox congregations in the country. A parallel body enjoying cordial relationship with the federation, operated in the Cape and South-West Africa. Because of the passing of the older generation of rabbis and the difficulty of getting replacements from abroad, the conference assigned priority to the training of South African rabbis in the rabbinical college, established in Johannesburg under the auspices of the Federation of Synagogues and supported by the Board of Deputies and the Board of Jewish Education. A small number of students had already graduated and were holding posts with congregations. Building operations began in 1966 on new Johannesburg premises for the Federation of Synagogues and Beth Din, to be known as the Isaac Goldberg Religious Center, in honor of the man who contributed R70,000 (approximately \$100,000) towards its construction.

There was a stir in the community when the Johannesburg Beth Din rebuked two Orthodox rabbis, who sent messages of congratulations to a neighborhood Reform temple which had invited them to its 21st anniversary celebration. The Beth Din sent circulars to congregations, warning rabbis and lay leaders against religious "fraternization" with Reform Judaism. Its attitude was criticized in the Jewish press, both at home and in England. The London *Jewish Chronicle* commented: "It is a pity that rabbis should warn against brotherly relationships between Jew and Jew, and a misreading of history to believe that this is the way to stifle new movements in Judaism. Indeed, what we need most in Jewish life today is more fraternization and less religious apartheid."

Orthodox Jewry in Cape Town, under Chief Rabbi Abraham's leadership, continued to make steady progress.

At the annual conference of the South African Union for Progressive

Judaism, held in Durban in May, its president Percy Moss-Rendell reported that South Africa now had the third largest Reform movement in the world. Taking note of the difficulties of getting new ministers from abroad, the conference projected a scheme to train Reform ministers locally.

New synagogues were dedicated or were under construction in Johannesburg (Orthodox and Reform), Pretoria (Orthodox), Cape Town (Reform), Port Elizabeth (Orthodox), and Klerksdorp (Orthodox).

### *Education*

According to a statement made in February by Asher Rivlin, former director of the Cape Board of Jewish Education, the 5,000 children at Jewish day schools in South Africa represented five per cent of all Jewish children attending Jewish day schools throughout the world—"a wonderful percentage" for a community which formed less than one per cent of all Jews in the world. An additional estimated 10,000 children were receiving Jewish education in afternoon classes at Talmud Torahs, Hebrew nursery schools (mornings), Reform Hebrew schools, and a Yiddish school.

Zvi Adar, professor of education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who came with A. Rosen, another instructor at the university to conduct a refresher course for South African Hebrew teachers in July, called the South African Jewish educational system one of the best in the diaspora. He had made a survey of the schools in 1964 (AJYB, 1966 [Vol. 67], p. 454). Adar said that a similar refresher course, held in Europe in 1965, was attended by only 20 teachers. "Contrast that with 150 teachers who flocked to attend our seminar in South Africa," he added.

### *Zionism and Relations with Israel*

There was evidence in 1966 of a resurgence of South African Jewry's traditional Zionist fervor, dampened in preceding years by the anti-South African attitude of the Israeli delegation at the United Nations. The resurgence was noted in the increased response to Zionist fund-raising campaigns and record attendances (12,000 in Johannesburg, proportionately high numbers in other centers) at the Yom Ha'atzmaut rallies to celebrate the 18th anniversary of Israel's establishment.

Israeli United Appeal organizers said that contributions to the 1966-67 IUA campaign, launched in August at Johannesburg and Cape Town banquets by Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the UJA in the United States, exceeded expectations. Good results were also reported in a special campaign for Israel's Yatir Project, launched in February by former Israeli Minister to South Africa Cecil Hyman and the women's Zionist biennial campaign, launched in May by Israeli emissaries Hannah Gelber and Ruth Tekoah. Women's Zionist work, which largely constituted the backbone of routine Zionist activities and education, reflected the general fillip.

At the South African Zionist Youth conference in Johannesburg in July,

chairman Michael Kuper urged the extension of the organization's work to influence groups outside its ranks, as well as greater participation in communal activity. The conference also projected plans for increased *aliyah*.

The Zionist Federation launched a special fund in October which was to be used to plant a forest of 10,000 trees, if possible near Sdei Boker, in honor of Ben-Gurion's 80th birthday.

The Friends of the Hebrew University, Histadrut Ivrit, Magen David Adom, the South African Maccabi, and other Zionist bodies widened their activities.

At the beginning of the year, Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob Monbaz replaced Colonel Dov Sinai as Israel's Consul-General in South Africa; in July Eliezer Yapou succeeded Azriel Harel as *chargé d'affaires* of the Israel legation. Harry Sabel of Jerusalem succeeded Zvi Wineberg as head of the JNF in South Africa in May.

### *Social Services*

Severe drought and inflationary pressures during the year were likely to result in increased welfare calls, warned Oscar Getz, president of the Johannesburg Hevra Kaddisha, the largest Jewish welfare body in South Africa, at its annual meeting in August. A similar warning was sounded at the annual meeting of the Cape Jewish Board of Guardians in November by its chairman Philip Marks. The Johannesburg Hevra Kaddisha's relief bill remained stationary at around R129,000 (\$180,000); but the Witwatersrand Benevolent Association had to issue 221 interest-free loans totaling R189,797 (\$271,130)—an increase of R27,523 (\$39,320) over the preceding year's 180 loans. Jewish orphanages and homes for the aged in Johannesburg and Cape Town won praise from welfare authorities for their high standards. The Selwyn Segal Hostel for handicapped children moved to new model premises in Johannesburg.

Robin Gilbert of the World ORT Union directorate staff visited South Africa in September to stimulate ORT-OSE work including vocational guidance and educational grants, a plastics course at the Johannesburg Technical College, manual training facilities in Jewish day schools, and raising funds for ORT-OSE abroad.

### *Cultural Activities*

A week-long Bible exhibit, arranged by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies in Johannesburg in February to launch Jewish Book Month, drew thousands of visitors. It included incunabula, flora and fauna of the Bible, stamps with biblical motifs, and the Bible in translation and in art. It also provided a speaker platform for Jewish and Christian scholars and religious leaders.

Another indication of the wide interest in the Bible was the large attendance at lectures given in July by Professor Abraham Malamat, associate pro-

fessor of ancient Jewish history and Bible at the Hebrew University, who visited South Africa to participate in the Conference of Old Testament Bible Scholars, held at Stellenbosch University as part of its centennial celebrations.

Cultural programs covering a variety of Jewish studies were conducted by the Board of Deputies, the Union of Jewish Women, the Women's Zionist Council, the Histadrut Ivrit, and the Yiddish Cultural Federation.

Books by South African Jewish writers published during the year included: *Judaism Today and Yesterday*, a book of essays by Chief Rabbi Bernard M. Casper; *From Refugee to Citizen*, a sociological study of refugees from Hitler Europe who settled in Southern Africa by Frieda Sichel; *Beyn rand fun gold* ("At the Rand of Gold"), a volume of Yiddish poems by Nathan Berger; *White Africans Are Also People*, political studies compiled by Sarah Gertrude Millin; *The Power of Prejudice in South African Education*, a research study by F. E. Auerbach; *South African Dictionary of National Biography*, compiled by Eric Rosenthal; *Who Hangs the Hangman?* a discussion of penology by Fanny Gross, and *The Beginners*, a novel by Dan Jacobson (a South African now living in London).

### Personalia

Israel Aaron Maisels, Q.C., was appointed judge of the Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland court of appeals in November. The World Council of Synagogues awarded a special citation to member of parliament Helen Suzman in August "for her distinguished leadership in the battle to translate the prophetic vision that 'all men are created equal' into reality." Hyman Miller, former mayor of Johannesburg and member of parliament, received the Pennsylvania State University Altoona campus award, presented to a native of Altoona (from which Miller emigrated to South Africa as a child) in recognition of outstanding service.

Losses suffered by South African Jewry during the year included Edgar Samuel Henochsberg, judge of the Natal supreme court, who died at Durban in March; Ellis Silverman, pioneer of the South African fish canning industry and benefactor of Jewish education, who died at Cape Town in March; Ben-zion Shein, Cape Zionist leader, who died at Muizenberg in June; Theo Ronsheim, secretary of the South African Friends of the Hebrew University, who died at Johannesburg in June; Irma Stern, leading South African artist, who died at Cape Town in August; Bertha Goudvis, veteran South African writer who died at Johannesburg in September; Woolf Senior, veteran Zionist leader and philanthropist, who died at Johannesburg in November; Israel Jaffe, Johannesburg communal leader, who died in November.

EDGAR BERNSTEIN