Central Europe

West Germany

Foreign Relations

The policies of the Brandt government increasingly reflected the wish to be all things to all men. They not only helped Britain enter the Common Market (European Economic Community; EEC) and maintained good relations with France; the new Ostpolitik endeavored to allay old fears of German revanchism and militarism, and attempted to establish normal economic and political relations with the nations of the Soviet bloc. Thus, Foreign Minister Walter Scheel declared in London that the entry of Great Britain into the Common Market was one of the cornerstones of German policy, while British Prime Minister Edward Heath stated that Chancellor Willy Brandt had the full support of the British government for his Ostpolitik. In June Brandt visited Richard M. Nixon in Washington to discuss matters of common interest, after Minister without Portfolio Horst Ehmke had previously tried to convince Henry Kissinger of Germany’s pure intentions.

In May President Gustav Heinemann went to Rumania, the first time a German head of state visited a Socialist country. In April the Belgian king and queen and Prime Minister Emilio Colombo of Italy visited the Federal Republic of Germany. In September Chancellor Brandt visited Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev in the Crimea. A communique was issued on the importance of the West German-Soviet treaty of August 12, 1970; of the four-power agreement on Berlin of September 9, 1971, and of a European security conference; of the normalization of relations between the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic, and of the need to work for the admittance of both German states to the United Nations. Last but not least, there was mention of the expansion of trade relations, of contacts in the fields of science and technology, and the continuation of bilateral consultations between West Germany and the USSR.

As for Israel and the Arab world, the Brandt government, here, too, tried to please both sides, which often led to ambiguity and ill-feeling all around.
Social Democratic party (SPD) manager Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, dubbed "Ben-Wisch" because of his good Arab contacts, traveled from Arab country to Arab country to negotiate the reestablishment of diplomatic and economic relations, and also managed to visit Israel. Meanwhile, the Arab nations bided their time and held out for more hard cash.

**Domestic Affairs**

A similar attitude of generosity for all prevailed in domestic affairs. The government faced severe difficulties as a result of large and costly reform programs that had been promised before elections. The federal budget reached the all-time high of DM 106.57 billion for 1972, 8.4 per cent more than in 1971. During the first three months of 1971, the government spent DM 23.4 billion, an increase of DM 3.6 billion (18 per cent) over the same period in 1970. The federal income rose by only 13.3 per cent, to DM 22.6 billion.

At the same time, the inflationary trend became more and more acute, despite repeated assertions by Economics Minister Karl Schiller that the problem had been solved. Germany was being flooded by foreign currencies, especially dollar investments. Appeals were made to employees not to press for higher wages during 1971; but the increased cost of living forced several labor unions to ask for substantial wage increases. German banking institutions had already lowered their interest rates several times to stem the tide of inflation. Finally, on May 9, Schiller decided to remove all controls over exchange rates, after having stopped dollar purchases. The action drew heavy criticism from the opposition. On May 14 Finance Minister Alex Moller resigned unexpectedly, and Economics Minister Schiller took over his ministry, as well.

In June the defense ministry decided to purchase 175 F4EF Phantom jets from the United States, at a cost of DM 4.3 billion. West Germany also signed the agreement against underwater nuclear tests. Compulsory military service was reduced from 18 to 15 months. The opposition criticized the morale of the German army; but Minister of Defense Helmut Schmidt maintained the Bundeswehr compared favorably with other military establishments in the Western world. Brandt declared that the necessary improvement of security did not contradict the intention of his government to improve relations with the Warsaw-Pact nations. Earlier, on June 16, the government had decided to cease delivery of arms to non-NATO nations.

The cabinet, in June, raised social security pensions by 6.3 per cent and accident pensions by 12.3 per cent. Also in June, a Strukturprogramm was launched, which was to create 460,000 new jobs by 1975. In September it was decided to raise pensions for war victims by 6.3 per cent in 1972.

There were 145,835 unemployed at the end of August (99,460 in 1970), as against 693,090 open jobs (852,503 in 1970). At the end of June, there were 2,168,668 foreign laborers in West Germany, as compared to 1,574,664 at the end of January 1970.
The government spent DM 6 billion for scientific purposes in 1971. The total expenditure for education was to reach DM 100 billion by 1980.

**ELECTIONS**

A report by the Ministry of the Interior revealed that popular support of the National Democratic party (NPD; AJYB, 1970 [Vol. 71], pp. 445-46) continued to wane. This was reflected in the election results. In many districts, NPD has all but collapsed. In consequence, some of its members resorted to spectacular, sometimes violent, activities to draw attention to NPD, which tended to increase the rift within the party and led to the resignation of its more moderate leaders. New organizations have sprung up, whose main purpose was the defeat of the Brandt government's Ostpolitik. Thus Gerhard Frey, publisher of the extreme rightist *Deutsche National-Zeitung*, founded the Deutsche Volksunion (DVU; German People's Union), which attracted 4,000 members in five months. Similarly successful were Aktion Oder-Neisse (AKON) and the Gemeinschaft Ostdeutscher Grundeigentümer (Association of East-German Property Owners). In June Friedheim Busse, former NPD official, founded the Partei der Arbeit (Party of Labor), exclusively representing the interests of "nationally-minded workers."

Election results showed the following percentages of votes cast for the various parties:

- **NPD**—Rhineland-Palatinate 2.7 (6.9 in 1967), Schleswig-Holstein 1.3 (5.8 in 1967), Bremen 2.84 (8.8 in 1967);
- **SPD**—Rhineland-Palatinate 40.5 (36.8 in 1967), Schleswig-Holstein 41 (39.4 in 1967), Berlin-West 50.4 (56.9 in 1967), Bremen 55.33 (46.0 in 1967);
- **FDP** (Free Democratic party)—Rhineland-Palatinate 5.9 (8.3 in 1967), Schleswig-Holstein 3.8 (5.9 in 1967), Berlin-West 8.5 (7.1 in 1967), Bremen 7.13 (10.5 in 1967);
- **CDU** (Christian Democratic Union)—Rhineland-Palatinate 50.0 (46.7 in 1967), Schleswig-Holstein 51.9 (46.0 in 1967), Berlin-West 38.2 (32.9 in 1967), Bremen 31.56 (29.5 in 1967);
- **DKP** (Communist party)—Rhineland-Palatinate 0.9, Schleswig-Holstein 0.4, Bremen 3.13, Berlin (SEW-Communist-run West Berlin Socialist Unity party) 2.3 (2.0 in 1967).

**Trials of Nazi Criminals**

**Arnsberg:** Walter Paulikat was sentenced to life imprisonment for shooting an 18 year old girl in Streigernau, Upper Silesia.

**Berlin:** Richard Hartmann, former co-worker of Adolf Eichmann in the Reich security headquarters, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for complicity in the murder of at least 5,741 Jews.

**Bochum:** Hans Wilhelm Bartsch was sentenced to three years' imprisonment
for complicity in the murder of at least 15,000 Jews in 1942 at Neu-Sandez, Poland.

**Darmstadt:** Erich Wollschlager was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for having ordered the murder of 27 Jews and Poles in Kielce, between July 1942 and August 1943.

**Düsseldorf:** Willi Schroth was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for complicity in murder. He had shot two Jewish women and a Jewish laborer while the latter was digging his own grave.

**Hannover, October 14:** In the longest (190 days) and most costly (DM 3 million) trial of Nazi criminals, Carl Strott was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment; Erhard Grauel to six years, Otto Reiche to five years, George Rosenstock to two-and-a-half years, Gerhard Kuketta to two years, Paul Fahrbach to one-and-a-half years, for complicity in murder in Latvia. The court heard 181 witnesses and five experts, also in the United States, Israel, and Russia.

**Memmingen:** Kurt Dannenberg was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for complicity in the murder of 15 Jews. He had headed the office for Communist resistance groups in Ghetto Reichshof in Poland, from where 20,000 to 30,000 Jews had been deported to Auschwitz.

**Regensburg:** Engelbert Kreuzer was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for complicity in the murder of 31,800 Jews at Babi Yar. Codefendants René Rosenbauer, Martin Besser, and Fritz Forberg were not tried because of sickness. During the trial, witnesses were influenced, the jury and judges threatened, and one judge was forced to resign.

**Saarbrücken:** Fritz Gebauer was sentenced to life imprisonment for having used the heel of his shoe to kill a Jewish dentist who had sought shelter from the cold. He will not serve his sentence because of illness.

Acquitted of charges were: in **Berlin,** on April 7, Kurt Ventner and Max Graustück, accused of complicity in the murder of 20,000 Jews (Ventner had been second-in-command at the Berlin Gestapo headquarters and responsible for the deportations of the city's Jews. The acquittal created an uproar in the courtroom and violent reactions in Jewish circles); in **Darmstadt,** Herbert Balhorn, Karl Essig, and Karl Martin Schenkele, accused of shootings in Kielce, Poland; in **Frankfurt,** Hans Fleischhacker, accused of complicity in the murder of Jews, so that their skulls and skeletons could be used for racial and anthropological instruction in the SS “research” project *Ahnenerbe* (ancestor-heredity); also in **Frankfurt,** Adolf Strohhammer, accused of complicity in the murder of men, women, and children in Russia, between 1941 and 1942, on grounds of having acted under orders; in **Hamburg,** Friedrich Paulus, accused of complicity in the murder of at least 186 Poles in Josefow and Radawiec, in 1940, because of the statute of limitations; in **Hannover,** Max Stobner, found guilty of mass-shootings in Lublin and remanded for trial, because of illness; in **Koblenz,** former state-secretary Friedrich Karl Vialon, accused of having perjured himself when
he declared in 1963 that, as the chief of finances of the Reichskommissariat für das Ostland in Riga, he had had no sure knowledge of mass-shootings of Jews, on grounds that present knowledge of atrocities must not be compared with the uncertain rumors at the time the events occurred; in Kiel, Heinz Richter and Wilhelm Nickele, accused of complicity in the murder of 819 inmates of Sonnenberg prison toward the end of World War II, because the jury was unable to determine who had given the execution orders (Richter currently was serving a seven-year term for the murder of at least 1,500 Jews in Mogilev (AJYB, 1970 [Vol. 71], p. 450); in Munich, Karl Wolff, sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for having made possible the murder of 300,000 Jews in Treblinka, because of illness; in Paderborn, Ludwig Rehn, Josef Friedsam, Kurt Patzelt, and Maximilian Schüller, accused of having killed several prisoners in the Wevelsburg-Niederhagen concentration camp between 1940 and 1943, on grounds of insufficient evidence.

Also released were: former SS General von dem Bach-Zelewski, now serving a life term, to a hospital because of illness, and "euthanasia physician" Horst Schumann, also for reasons of health. Schumann, who had been extradited to Germany, admitted to having killed more than 15,000 mentally ill patients between 1940 and 1941. Franz Stangl, former commandant of Treblinka who was serving a life term for the murder of at least 400,000 Jews (AJYB, 1971 [Vol. 72], p. 385), died in Düsseldorf prison in June.

Chief Prosecutor Adalbert Rückerl, director of the Ludwigsburg Central Agency for the Investigation of National-Socialist Crimes, said his agency would be closed after 1980. He cited as reasons for the decision the advanced age of accused and witnesses, and the difficulties of ascertaining the pertinent facts even now, after an interval of at least 26 years. Since the end of the war, court actions had been initiated against 85,000 persons, of whom 7,000 were sentenced. The Central Agency contained 647,000 files; 318,000 documents indexed on 92,400 cards; and 437 documents on microfilm, all at the disposal of the courts and the prosecution. The agency has identified 8,000 localities and 2,757 units where crimes had been committed. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials, German Democratic Republic Prosecutor-General Dr. Josef Streit said that a total of 12,828 persons had been sentenced for war crimes in that part of Germany. He also revealed that, during the last decade, 10,000 documents and photostats concerning illegal death sentences imposed by the Nazis had been transmitted to West German courts.

In February West Germany and France signed an agreement, subject to ratification by parliament, allowing West German courts to prosecute Nazis, who had been sentenced in absentia in France for crimes committed during the occupation, but who never were brought to trial. An earlier treaty, in 1955, prohibited German courts from dealing with such criminals. Germany now had to determine which cases could be investigated under the statute of limitations.
Relations with Israel

Early in the year, the neutrality of the German coalition government in the Middle East conflict was criticized by Bruno Heck, secretary-general of the Christian Democratic Union. He stated he would like to see Bonn's relations with Israel determined not only by tactical considerations. An official reaction by the Free Democratic party, a partner in the coalition, was that Heck's point of view would lead to a "vietnamization" of the Middle East conflict.

Foreign Minister Scheel's visit to Israel in July, reciprocating Abba Eban's visit to Germany in 1970 (AJYB, 1971 [Vol. 72], p. 386), received favorable comments. Still, criticism of Bonn's policy regarding the Middle East conflict did not cease. After a visit to Israel, CSU politician Hermann Höcherl inquired why the Common Market ministers had forwarded French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann's paper (p. 561), which was unfavorable to Israel, to UN Secretary U Thant as an official document. Kurt Birrenbach (CDU) agreed that the EEC ministers had the right to speak with one voice, but he wondered why this had to happen for the first time just now.

A German-Israel parliamentary group was founded by Jürgen Wohlrabe (CDU) and Annemarie Renger (SPD).

At the opening, in September, of an exhibition commemorating 300 years of cultural achievements of Berlin's Jews, Mayor Schütz declared that Israeli doubts concerning the German Ostpolitik were unfounded. He pleaded for a realistic approach to the problem, emphasizing that West Germany sought contacts with the Arab nations so that the field would not be left to those Germans who would incite the Arab states to even stronger hatred against Israel. This, too, was an important aspect of German foreign policy.

In May, Jesco von Puttkammer became the third German ambassador to Israel. He had been editor-in-chief of the Social Democratic weekly, Vorwärts. State-Secretary Heinz Westphal of the Ministry for Youth, Family, and Health, was elected president of the German-Israel Society (DIG) in December, after Ernst Benda, who had become president of Germany's highest court, the Bundesverfassungsgericht, resigned. The annual meeting of the society was addressed by Israel Ambassador Eliashiv Ben-Horin.

A new Israeli consulate, headed by Pinhas Shamir, was opened in Munich. According to the consul, his office would have primarily economic functions, dealing with Israeli exports and German investments in Israel.

Former Chancellor Ludwig Erhard was on the list of German dignitaries serving on the board of the Friends of the Magen David Adom in Germany.

At the annual meeting of the organization Helping the Blind in Israel, Johannes Giesberts was elected its chairman to succeed the late Ernst Blum. Giesberts, a recipient of the Leo Baeck prize of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland (AJYB, 1971 [Vol. 72], p. 396) also was one of the founders of the German-Israel Society.
A photoelectric polarimeter was presented to the pharmaceutical college of the Hebrew University by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, in February.

The Volkswagenwerk Foundation granted DM 1.6 million for the establishment of an institute for German history at Tel Aviv university. Director of the institute, which was opened in October, was Dr. W. Grab.

The Evangelical Church of Hesse-Nassau gave a grant of DM 88,000 to help finance an irrigation project in the Negev.

Under the sixth economic-aid agreement, DM 140 million went to Israel in 1971, bringing West German economic aid since the end of the 1963 indemnification agreement (DM 3 billion) to approximately DM 1.64 billion.

German exports to Israel in 1971 amounted to DM 1 billion (twice the amount of exports to China and Egypt, combined). Exports from Israel to Germany were approximately DM 400 million. Israel was again represented at the 10th Berlin "Green Week" with agricultural products, primarily vegetables, citrus fruits, and flowers.

Among the various Israeli dignitaries who visited Germany were Jacob Tsur, head of JNF; Moshe Nacht, head of Israeli penal institutions; Minister of Justice Ya'acov Shimshon Shapiro; Itzhak Ben-Aharon, secretary-general of the Histadrut; various members of the Kneset; city and district officials, and university professors. Some Israeli academics were guest-professors at German universities. The city of Hamburg invited 26 leaders of Israeli women's organizations to participate in a study tour of Germany. Thirty-two Israeli youth leaders came to Düsseldorf in connection with a youth exchange program (AJYB, 1971 [Vol. 72], p. 387); 35 youngsters of Hapoel in Rishon le Zion were invited by youth groups in Münster. Altogether, 2,000 Israeli youths visited Germany during the year.

Among German visitors to Israel were Foreign Minister Walter Scheel, in July; CDU politician Gerhard Schröder, who faced adverse criticism in Israel; CSU political leader Hermann Höcherl; the parliamentary state-secretary in the Ministry of Science Hildegard Hamm-Brücher of FDP; Bishop Dietzfelbinger of Munich; Josef Cardinal Hopfner of Cologne, who came with 50 members of the clergy. A Bundestag delegation visited Israel in June, returning the visit by a Kneset delegation. SPD and FDP delegations visited Israel in April and November, respectively. In Jerusalem, Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz, a secretary in the German Foreign Office, was honored for having made possible the rescue of the Danish Jews during World War II (AJYB, 1971 [Vol. 72], p. 396); he planted a tree in the "Alley of the Just." Four thousand young Germans visited Israel during the year. The German government spent DM 2.3 million for the 1971 youth exchange program.

For the first time, Germans were present at the ninth Hapoel Hamizrachi sport events held in Tel Aviv in April-May. For some time, there had been contacts between the German Sport College in Cologne and the Wingate Institute for Physical Education in Israel, which received equipment from Germany. A Bundestag delegation served as go-between. Preparations for the
Israeli delegation to the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich progressed during the year. An interfaith committee met regularly to discuss problems and to prepare facilities and programs in connection with these events.

Cultural exchange suffered a temporary setback because the first German Culture Week unfortunately coincided with the anniversary of the November 9-10, 1938, Kristallnacht. A reading by author Günter Grass and the opening concert were severely disrupted by protesting members of Betar. A gala performance of Lessing's Emilia Galotti by the Berlin Schiller Theater ensemble was disturbed by demonstrators, some of whom insulted visitors; others wore concentration-camp uniforms. One young man chained himself to a chair.

Several Israeli artists visited West Germany, among them Dahlia Lavy, the favorite singer in Germany; Niza Tobi, and Aviva Semadar. Israeli conductor Gabriel Chmura won first prize in the international Herbert von Karajan contest, in which 83 contestants from 27 states participated. In Hamburg, the premiere of Josef Tal's opera Ashmedai took place. In Cologne, an exhibit of 20 Israeli painters, held in June, attracted many visitors, especially young art students. In Berlin, eight Israeli artists exhibited during the Berlin Festival Weeks. The weeks were opened in September by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, with Daniel Barenboim as soloist. In March the Kibbutz Choir, under the direction of Jael Tabori and Avner Itai, appeared in 15 cities of West Germany. The Israeli Bat-Dor ballet appeared in Frankfurt. Author Ephraim Kishon gave readings from his books in several German cities. The Israeli comedy, My Mother the General, by Eli Sagi, was performed in many German cities by a German ensemble, which had visited Israel to acquaint itself with the "atmosphere."

A delegation of the German Israel Society (DIG) led by Ernst Benda and Heinz Westphal visited Israel in November to meet with representatives of the newly organized Israel-German Society in Tel Aviv, headed by Professor André de Vries, president of Tel Aviv University. The delegation came to Israel at the height of the controversy in connection with German Culture Week. They were received by President Zalman Shazar, who, for the first time, officially addressed a group of visitors in German. DIG's vice-president, Rector Rolf Rendtorff of Heidelberg university who is a member of the council of the World Union of Jewish Studies, answered in fluent modern Hebrew.

**Christian-Jewish Cooperation**

Brotherhood Week was opened on March 21 in Cologne by Chancellor Brandt, who emphasized the special relationship between the Federal Republic and the Jews, and said his government's attitude toward the State of Israel would not change. His remarks were understood to be an answer to criticisms repeatedly voiced in Jewish circles (AJYB [Vol. 72], p. 384). During the ecumenical meeting of Protestants and Catholics in Augsburg in June, a service was held, with Bishop Josef Stimpfle and Landesrabbiner N. Peter Levinson officiating. A Shabbat service also took place in the burnt-
out synagogue of Augsburg, which was attended by several thousand worshipers of all faiths. A similar joint service was held by Bishop Kurt Scharf and Rabbis Joachim Prinz, Werner van der Zyl, and N. Peter Levinson during the 300-year anniversary of the Berlin Jewish community in September.

"Judaism Today" was the subject of the fourth study-week of the German Coordinating Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation. Lectures were given on various religious and secular definitions of Judaism; the relationship of Judaism and Christianity, Islam, and Socialism; customs and ceremonies; Zionism, and the Talmud. Guests from abroad were Dr. Yona Malachy of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Jerusalem, Professor Erwin Rosenthal of Cambridge, and Dr. F. L. Brassloff of Geneva. Seminars on Judaism were conducted in nine cities. At the annual meeting of the Coordinating Council two new cities, Trier and Koblenz, were added to the 43 societies of Christian-Jewish Cooperation in Germany. W. Eckert, N.P. Levinson, and Martin Stöhr were reelected as co-chairmen. The societies were asked by the West German Ministry of the Interior to compile a record of those Germans who had aided Jews during the days of the Nazi terror. They also published a comprehensive list on Judaic studies offered at German universities. Dr. Malachy, who was also lecturer on American Church history at the Hebrew University and editor of *Christian News from Israel*, lectured in Berlin on problems of Jewish-Christian relations.

Strong anti-Israel statements made during a meeting on Israel at the Evangelical Academy in Berlin created ill-feeling among the Jewish participants, who walked out. The situation was further aggravated when the director of the Academy later invited the Munich Palestine Committee, a radical leftist Arab group, to a meeting.

**Antisemitism**

The Bundesverwaltungsgericht, supreme administrative court of the Federal Republic, ruled antisemitism to be unconstitutional. It therefore held the "aggressive antisemitic utterances" of the Bund für Gotteserkenntnis, which was associated with the nationalistic Ludendorff movement, in violation of the constitutional order.

The Bundesgerichtshof has ruled a punishable offense the labeling of a Jewish candidate as a Jew on an election poster, which occurred during the election campaign of Professor Herbert Weichmann, Social Democratic party candidate for mayor of Hamburg. According to law, only discrimination against religious groups, not individuals, is a punishable offense. However, the court explained that, while the label apparently applied only to an individual, the intention was to appeal to antisemitic feelings, and thus actually to disparage a religious group.

A refugee district office in Offenbach am Main asked an applicant for
indemnification, who was required to furnish proof of German cultural background, to bring a witness "who did not belong to the Mosaic faith." The request was changed upon the intervention of Jewish agencies.

Jewish cemeteries were desecrated in Gelsenkirchen and Tunxdorf.

A radical right-wing group was discovered in Düsseldorf and Bonn; 12 men were arrested. The police found on the premises a copy of Der Stürmer of 1938, a small flag with a swastika, and weapons.

Muhammed Haykal, editor of the Cairo daily al-Ahram, stated after a visit to Germany that the guilt feelings of the Germans would lead to a revival of antisemitism. He maintained that this sense of guilt, which led to reparation payments to the State of Israel, had been forced on the Germans by the Americans after the war.

A scandal was caused by the disclosure of the Nazi past of Professor Heinrich Höhn, director of the Academy for Economic Managers in Harzburg, a training institute for top managers for industry, communal leaders, and officers of the Bundeswehr. Höhn, a former SS Standartenführer and close associate of Heinrich Himmler, had widely disseminated Nazi doctrine as head of the Central Department II/2 of the Sicherheits-Dienst (Security Service) and as director of the Institute for State Research in Nazi Germany. Ten of his books and many of his contributions to magazines and newspapers appeared between 1934 and 1940. The Wannsee Conference, at which the Endlösung (final solution) of the Jewish question was decided upon, took place at his institute. Thus far, 200,000 persons who became leaders of the German government and economy attended the Harzburg academy, 35,000 in 1970 alone.

Restitution and Indemnification

As of January 1, 1971, DM 29.32 billion had been paid by West Germany for claims under the indemnification law, and DM 3.414 billion under the restitution law. Total payments including the agreement with Israel, settlement with 12 other states, and various other payments reached DM 40.386 billion, of which 25.3 billion were paid out of federal funds. By 1975, the total was expected to reach DM 80 billion, of which DM 25 billion to DM 30 billion were to go for pensions. Under the federal indemnification law, one-third of the amount was to remain in Germany, one-third was to be paid to recipients in Israel, and one-third to those in other countries. Under the federal restitution law, 25 per cent of the funds expended were to remain with recipients in Germany, 40 per cent were to go to Israel, and 35 per cent to recipients in other countries.

The West German Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the provision of the September 15, 1965 version of the federal indemnification law, which retroactively would have excluded from indemnification payments those victims who had left iron curtain countries after October 1, 1953.
The Bundestag committee on petitions asked parliament for legislation to indemnify victims of forced sterilization by the Nazis. SPD representative Hansen stated that, between 1934 and 1945, some 350,000 persons had been sterilized under the "Law for the Prevention of a Diseased Progeny." Actually, victims usually had been sterilized for political or religious reasons.

JEWSH COMMUNITY

Demography

According to statistics compiled by the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland (Central Welfare Agency of Jews in Germany), the total Jewish population of the Federal Republic was 26,779 as of January 1, 1972. Of these, 5,318 lived in Berlin, 4,913 in Frankfurt, 1,469 in Hamburg, and 1,350 in Cologne. The rest were scattered in the various states—5,072 of them in Bavaria. Of the total number of Jews, 14,306 were males and 12,473 females. The median age was 50.4. There were 4,215 children and youths below the age of 20, of whom 508 were three years of age or younger; 484 between ages of four and six; 1,790 between seven and 15, and 1,433 between the ages of 16 and 20. There were 540 deaths and 65 births in 1971. The number of Jews who moved to West Germany from abroad was 1,119, and 485 left the country. Seventy persons converted to Judaism; 98 Jews left the Jewish community.

Jewish Education and Youth Activities

At a meeting in Bonn, in February, the Bundesverband Jüdischer Studenten in Deutschland (Jewish Students' Organization in the Federal Republic), founded in 1968, elected new officers; 25 delegates attended. BJSD published a press review of material on the Middle East conflict. Jewish students continued to work on behalf of Soviet Jewry; they demonstrated against the Leningrad trials in front of the Soviet Embassy, conducted hunger strikes, and regularly telephoned with Jews in the Soviet Union.

In December a youth seminar was held in Sobernheim on the problems of Jewish youth in Germany. A new kindergarten building was opened by the Jewish community of West-Berlin. Children were again sent to camps in Sobernheim, Wembach (Black Forest), and Oudelande, Holland, for summer vacations. Another group spent the summer in a kibbutz in Israel.

The Zionist Youth in Germany (ZJD) conducted several seminars during the year. Among regular courses were Hebrew, Israeli dances, and leadership training emphasizing youth psychology.

Religious Life

For the first time since World War II, High Holy Day services were held in the ancient synagogue of Worms, which had been built in 1034, destroyed in 1938, and rebuilt in 1961. In July a new synagogue was dedicated in
Karlsruhe, with German Minister of the Interior Dietrich Genscher and Hans Filbinger, minister president of Baden-Württemberg, as speakers. The construction of the building, which took three and one-half years, was financed by the city of Karlsruhe at a cost of DM 2 million. The city of Munich contributed DM 1 million toward rebuilding the Jewish community center and home for the aged which was destroyed by fire in February 1970 (AJYB [Vol. 72], p. 389). The Jewish community of Regensburg dedicated its new house of prayer, erected on the site of a large synagogue destroyed in 1938.

In January an agreement was concluded between the senate of the city of Berlin and the Jewish community regulating the legal relation between the two bodies. Rabbi Cuno Ch. Lehrmann resigned his position as rabbi of the Berlin community, to be succeeded, on March 1, 1972, by Rabbi Manfred Lubliner of Santiago, Chile. Rabbi Lazar Lipschutz resigned his position as Landesrabbiner of Nordrhein-Westphalia, to be succeeded by Rabbi Ady E. Assabi.

Anniversaries and Memorials

In November, 1,200 youths met on the site of the Dachau concentration camp. They were addressed by Heinz Westphal of the Ministry for Youth, Family and Health.

In Ulm, a group of former concentration-camp inmates of Heuberg-Kuhberg-Welzheim demanded the erection of a memorial on the camp site. Costs were estimated at DM 300,000.

Memorial plaques were dedicated at the former homes of Alfred Kerr, the well-known Jewish theater critic who died in a concentration camp, and of the Jewish writer Else Lasker-Schüler.

The West Berlin Jewish community celebrated its 300th anniversary, October 9–30. Many special events took place, including the appearance of the London Jewish Male Choir. The Jewish community of Greater Berlin (East) observed the occasion on September 9 in the old community center on Oranienburger Strasse.

In January the Jewish community of Westphalia observed the 25th anniversary of its reconstitution. During the celebration, Landesrabbiner Emil Davidovic delivered the sermon.

The Münchener Jüdische Nachrichten, published by Moses Lustig, celebrated its 20th anniversary.

New Books

Books on Jewish subjects continued to be published and widely read. They included: Yigal Allon, . . . und David ergriff die Schleuder ("... and David Took the Slingshot"); Paul Arnsberg, Die jüdischen Gemeinden in Hessen ("The Jewish Communities in Hesse"); Asher Ben-Natan, Briebe

**Personalia**

The Leo Baeck prize of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland was awarded to Rolf Vogel, publisher of Deutschland-Berichte. Siegmund Weltlinger, prominent Jewish member of the Berlin city council received the municipality’s Ernst Reuter medal. The German Coordinating Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation honored Bishop Kurt Scharf of Berlin with the Buber-Rosenzweig medal. President Gustav Heinemann awarded the Grosse Bundesverdienstkreuz, a high German decoration, to Hermann Lewy, editor of the Allgemeine Unabhängige Jüdische Wochenzeitung, on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Hendrik George van Dam, secretary-general of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland was honored on
his 65th birthday (November 8), as were Rabbi Robert Raphael Geis, author and former Landesrabbiner of Baden, and Max Willner, director of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland, on their 65th birthdays. Leopold Goldschmidt, until 1964 chairman of the International Consultative Committee of Organizations for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and former editor of the *Frankfurter Neue Presse*, celebrated his 75th birthday.

Werner Nachmann of Karlsruhe again was elected chairman of the board of directors of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland; Nachmann also was president of the Oberrat der Israeliten Badens. Among other members of the board were Dan Diner (Frankfurt), Senator Mandel (Bavaria), Hans Lamm (Munich), Josef Neuberger (Nordrhein), and I. D. Evian (Düsseldorf).

Herbert Weichmann, mayor of the city of Hamburg, resigned on June 8, at the age of 75. Professor Hans Martin Landecker resigned as head of the Jewish Hospital in Hamburg.

Rabbi Siegbert Neufeld, author, historian, and formerly rabbi of Stuttgart, died in Israel, at the age of 80. Heinz Schenk, chairman of the East-Berlin Jewish community, died during a visit to West Berlin on June 1, at the age of 61. Ludwig Marcuse, author and philosopher, died on August 2, at the age of 77.

N. Peter Levinson