

Central Europe

Federal Republic of Germany

Domestic Affairs

THE ECONOMIC RECESSION continued in 1975. The gross national product fell by 3.6 per cent. The average price rise for the year was 6 per cent. The number of unemployed remained almost as high as before: over one million, or 5.3 per cent, at year's end.

Politically, the year saw efforts by the Socialist-Liberal government-coalition parties in Bonn to consolidate their position, and by the opposition parties to broaden their bases in preparation for the 1976 Bundestag elections. The Social Democratic party (SPD) had some further losses; but the sharp trend away from it in the previous year was almost arrested, mainly because of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's energetic leadership. The Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) opposition charged the coalition with incompetence and lack of initiative in foreign policy, and even more in economic affairs, but offered no alternative program of its own. It was involved in internal power struggles, primarily over the choice of a candidate for chancellor to head its ticket in 1976. It finally chose as its candidate Helmut Kohl, prime minister of Rhineland-Palatinate and CDU chairman, in preference to CSU chairman Franz-Josef Strauss.

The results of the state legislative elections were as follows: In Rhineland-Palatinate, on March 9, CDU received 53.9 per cent of the vote (50 per cent in 1971); SPD, 38.5 per cent (40.5 in 1971) and its coalition partner, the Free Democratic party (FDP), 5.6 per cent (5.9 in 1971); the ultra-right National Democratic party (NPD), 1.1 (2.7 in 1971); the German Communist party (DKP), 0.5 per cent (0.9 in 1971).

In Schleswig-Holstein, on April 13, CDU received 50.4 per cent of the vote (51.9 per cent in 1971); SPD, 40.1 (41 in 1971); FDP, 7.1 (3.8 in 1971); NDP, 0.5 (1.3 in 1971); DKP remained at 0.4 per cent.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, on May 4, CDU received 47.1 per cent of the vote (46.3 in 1970); SPD, 45.1 (46.1 in 1970); FDP, 6.7 (5.5 in 1970); NPD, 0.4 (1.1 in 1970); DKP, 0.5 (0.9 in 1970).

In Saarland, on May 4, CDU received 49.1 per cent of the vote (47.8 in 1970);

SPD, 40.8 (41.8 in 1970); FDP, 7.4 (4.4 in 1970); NPD, 0.7 (3.4 in 1970); DKP, 1.0 (2.7 in 1970).

The Bremen municipal elections, on September 28, gave CDU 33.7 per cent of the vote (31.5 in 1971); SPD, 48.7 (55.3 in 1971); FDP, 12.9 (7.1 in 1971); NPD, 1.1 (2.8 in 1971); DKP, 2.1 (3.1 in 1971).

In the Baden-Württemberg state elections on April 4, 1976, CDU won 56.7 per cent of the vote (against 52.9 per cent in 1972); SPD, 33.3 per cent (37.6 in 1972); FDP, 7.8 per cent (8.9 in 1972); NPD, 0.9 per cent (0.5 in 1972), and DKP, 0.4 per cent (0.5 in 1972).

Foreign Policy

In view of the differences, primarily on economic questions, between the states of the European Community, but also because of tension between Europe and the United States and between the Arabs and Europe, the Federal Republic's foreign policy was primarily directed toward the amicable reconciliation of conflicting interests. Bonn was able to reinforce its position as a major political and economic mediator, especially in Europe. It played a major role in bringing about the preferential agreement which the European Community signed with Israel in May. Its policy of friendship toward all sides, also in the Middle East, further enabled it to do much in fostering an Arab-European dialogue aimed at long-term cooperation in questions of industry, trade, and energy. Bonn also stepped up efforts to develop bilateral cooperation with the Arab states.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher stressed his government's readiness to support a more active Middle East policy of its own, and in Europe. Both the Arab states and Israel, he asserted, expected Europe to fulfill its responsibilities in the Middle East. He therefore advocated that the European states, though not direct mediators in the Middle East conflict, should seek to reinforce and supplement effectively the current peace efforts.

The Federal Republic continued to support Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the November 1973 Middle East Declaration of the European Community. This meant, among other things, recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and national fulfillment in Arab territories now occupied by Israel, coupled with guarantees of Israel's right to exist within secure borders. Bonn refused to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as long as the latter denied Israel's right to exist and continued to be responsible for acts of terrorism.

Nevertheless, there were contacts between German politicians and PLO, both in Beirut and Bonn. In August Karl Moersch, minister of state in the foreign ministry, met with Shawfik al-Hut, head of the PLO's Beirut office, in the house of the German ambassador in Beirut. In response to Israeli protests against the meeting, Moersch explained that the conversation offered an opportunity for frank discussion and an appraisal of the situation. There was much on which no agreement had been

reached; but the Federal Republic believed that it could effectively work for a peaceful solution to the conflict only by a friendly attitude toward both sides. Further contacts between German politicians and PLO representatives took place in September in Bonn at a European-Arab conference of parliamentarians, held at the invitation of the Paris-based Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arabian Cooperation which was headed by German Social Democratic Bundestag deputy Lene-Lotte von Bothmer. Representatives of the PLO took part in the conference with full membership rights as members of the Palestinian National Council.

However in the international organizations in which it was represented, the Federal Republic opposed all attempts to admit PLO as member or observer. And in November the government declared that there were no plans to permit the establishment of a PLO office in Bonn. In the UN Assembly, Bonn voted against PLO participation in the Geneva Middle East talks. To emphasize the impartiality of German Middle East policy, Foreign Minister Genscher, as if to balance Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's visit to Germany in February, visited Egypt and Saudi Arabia in April. He went to Israel in November on Allon's invitation, and on that occasion the two foreign ministers agreed on the formation of a Mixed Commission to promote trade exchange, industrial cooperation, and German investments in Israel.

Relations with Israel

The high point of German-Israeli relations during the year—and indication of the positive development of official ties in the decade of their existence—was Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to the Federal Republic and West Berlin, July 8–12. It was the first time an Israeli chief of government set foot on German soil. Rabin, who was returning Chancellor Willy Brandt's 1973 visit to Israel, first went to the site where once stood the Bergen-Belsen camp to say Kaddish for the concentration camp victims. He then flew to Berlin for a meeting with Mayor Klaus Schütz and a visit to the Jewish community. His last stop was Bonn, where he saw President Scheel, Chancellor Schmidt, Foreign Minister Genscher, and leading members of the various parties. Before returning home, Rabin stressed that the past could not be forgotten; that his decision to come to the Federal Republic had required much deliberation. But, he said, it was necessary to see the present and to look to the future; to build bridges and close chasms; to do everything to overcome differences of opinion and create a better understanding of all problems. He was convinced, he concluded, that his visit would contribute to a better understanding between the German and Israeli peoples, adding, "I have found friendship here." Chancellor Schmidt declared that Rabin's visit helped much to deepen mutual political understanding; that the reaction of the Germans to this first visit of an Israeli prime minister was a very positive one, and that, after all that had happened, friendship and trust were today the most important factors in the relations between the two peoples.

In February 1975 Dr. Per Fischer took up his post as Bonn's fourth ambassador to Israel. In January 1976 Lieutenant-Colonel Dietrich Gerlach was appointed the first military attaché of the German embassy in Israel.

Several other members of the Israel cabinet made official visits to the Federal Republic. Foreign Minister Allon came to West Berlin with former Prime Minister Golda Meir to participate in a Socialist International conference, on whose agenda was a discussion of the Middle East. The occasion of the visit was used by a so-called League against Imperialism to stage a protest march through the city in which the several hundred participants, mainly young members of Communist groups, clamored against what they called "the provocative visit of the Zionist leadership to West Berlin," shouting slogans and displaying posters with such inscriptions as "Down with the Jewish People" and "Out of Berlin with Allon and Meir." Mrs. Meir and Allon visited the Berlin Jewish community and the memorial to the victims of Nazi persecution. In Bonn, where Allon later met with German political leaders, he remarked that, though he had naturally come to Germany with mixed feelings, he found a Germany "altogether different from what had been expected in view of the terrible past," a friendly Germany, ready to help Israel.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary, on May 12, of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel, Karl Carstens, chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, made a point of referring to German-Arab relations as well:

This historic decision ushered in a new epoch of reconciliation between the German and Jewish peoples. Developments of the last ten years have shown that the special German-Israeli relationship is compatible with the traditional German-Arab friendship. The CDU/CSU parliamentary group will continue in the future to urge that the capital of trust earned by the German Federal Republic from Israelis and Arabs be invested for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East that will do justice to the legitimate interests of both sides and for world peace.

German-Israeli contacts and cooperation continued in various areas. In 1975 the Federal Republic granted Israel credits of DM 140 million for various development and construction projects. In August the two governments concluded an agreement for the exchange of information and experience in the fields of road transport, road construction, railroad construction, and traffic infrastructure. In October in Bonn, Israeli Agriculture Minister Ahron Ouzan and German Food and Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl agreed on closer cooperation in the development of agriculture. In the same month, Israeli Labor Minister Moshe Baram met with his German counterpart, Walter Arendt, as well as with leaders of the German Trade Union Federation (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund—DGB). The latter promised support of his official request that Bonn continue the training program for Israeli craftsmen in the Federal Republic. Earlier, in September, Histadrut General Secretary Yeruham Meshel's visit to DGB produced an agreement between the two labor organizations for closer cooperation, especially between their regional branches. The agreement declared that labor movement solidarity and common support for a peaceful settle-

ment of the Middle East conflict had further strengthened the close ties between the two groups. According to Meshel, the hope was that the agreement would prompt DGB, and perhaps other European trade unions, to bring about direct contacts between the Israelis and Arabs.

In May 1975 the youth organizations of the German Social Democratic party and Israeli Labor party agreed to resume full relations, which had been broken off in 1973 when a pro-Arab Middle East resolution was adopted by the Young Socialists. In January 1976 a group of CDU/DSU Bundestag deputies and members of the Israeli Likud group agreed on future cooperation through consultation and exchange of information.

A Knesset delegation headed by Speaker Israel Yeshayahu came to West Germany for meetings with German politicians in key cities in June; Haim Kubersky, general director of the Israeli Interior Ministry, came in July to discuss questions of state security and election law; Shlomo Lahat, mayor of Tel Aviv, toured the country in July; Moshe Kol, Israeli minister of tourism and chairman of the Israeli Independent Liberal party, attended the Free Democratic party congress in Mainz in October.

The number of German visitors to Israel in 1975 was almost 10 per cent above the 44,000 who had come the year before. Despite the general economy measures instituted by Germany, Bonn's federal youth program continued to finance the German-Israeli youth-exchange program. In all, approximately 40,000 young Germans and Israelis participated since the program was started. Close to 90 German athletes took part in the Hapoel games in Israel in May; Willi Daume, president of the German National Olympic Committee, attended as a guest of Israel. Joseph Inbar, president of the Israeli National Olympic Committee, made several trips to the Federal Republic to discuss sports relations between the two countries. In February the chairman of the German Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Archbishop Döpfner of Munich, headed a group of Catholic leaders who visited Israel. And in March a delegation of the Central Committee of German Catholics went to Israel.

In September Heinz Kühn, prime minister of North Rhineland-Westphalia and deputy chairman of the Social Democratic party, flew to Israel for meetings with government and union representatives, discussion of German measures to assist in various construction projects, and arrangement for the exchange of party and youth delegations. His wife presented Israel with DM 100,000, contributed by private German individuals and organizations for a new children's home in Tel Aviv and for Israeli women's organizations.

There were throughout the year, too, a number of symposia and seminars at which German and Israeli experts deliberated on matters of mutual concern. In connection with a symposium in Hamburg, in March, attended by some 40 scholars from Germany, Israel, England, and the United States, the first meeting of German and Israeli historians took place to discuss the social history of the German Jews between 1870 and 1917. In July prominent Israeli jurists participated in a symposium in Bonn to familiarize themselves with German legal terminology and to

investigate the possibility of incorporating parts of the German civil code into Israeli law.

At the end of a German-Israeli teachers' seminar in Bonn in August, Shalom Levin and Erich Frister, chairmen of the Israel Teachers Union and the German Educational and Scientific Trade Union, respectively, called for a reexamination of statements in textbooks of the two countries in regard to one another. German and Israeli education specialists met for preliminary discussions in Duisburg in October under the auspices of the German-Israeli Society. Work was to begin in 1976 in cooperation with the German International Textbook Institute in Brunswick.

In March, 492 professors, representing almost all West German universities, signed an appeal to the federal government to use its influence for the repeal of the anti-Israel UNESCO resolutions. At the beginning of 1975 the Rhineland synod of the Evangelical Church expressed concern over Israel's treatment in the United Nations and warned of the danger of the state's worldwide isolation. It called on all Christians not to falter in their support for the Israeli people, and not to subordinate to their own security Israel's right to existence and to secure boundaries. The representative assembly of the Evangelical Teachers Association of Germany sent an open letter to the government in May, calling on it to support Israel in its beleaguered situation.

Israel again took part in numerous German trade and industrial fairs to expand its commercial relations with the Federal Republic. Nevertheless, Israel's unfavorable balance in trade with the Federal Republic increased. Its total deficit was DM 1.132 million at year's end. Total German investments in Israel's industry reached DM 420 million. West German exports to Israel in 1975 amounted to DM 1.532 million marks, imports from Israel reached DM 400 million. German-Israeli cooperation in scientific and technical fields was further strengthened during the year. Twenty-five joint research projects were in progress in numerous fields of technology and basic science.

In September Daniel Oren, a 20-year-old Israeli, won the first prize of DM 10,000 in the fourth international orchestra conductors' contest held by the Herbert von Karajan Foundation in West Berlin. At the 24th international music contest of the Association of German Radio Stations, held in Munich in September, Natasha Tadson of Israel won the second prize of DM 4,000 for piano. Under the sponsorship of Bundestag President Annemarie Renger, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Zubin Mehta made a successful concert tour of the Federal Republic. In the fall the youth orchestra of the West Berlin radio RIAS toured Israel.

Sie sind frei, Dr. Korczak ("You Are Free, Dr. Korczak"), the German-Israeli film about the sufferings of a Polish physician starring Leo Genn and directed by Alexander Ford of the United States, had its world premiere in Bonn and West Berlin in April.

The Yad Vashem in Jerusalem conferred the Medal of the Righteous Among the Peoples on Wanda and Gregor Zukowski for saving the lives of Jews in Warsaw; on former Mayor Ludwig Walz of Riedlingen, Baden-Württemberg, for aiding

persecuted Jews between 1934 and 1942; on Mrs. Josefa Olschwang, for rescuing Jews from deportation; on Mrs. Johanna de Haan-Peiser, for helping Jews in Holland, and on Heinrich and Herta Brockschmidt of Linz/Rhein, Ruth Wendland of Mühlheim/Ruhr, Ernst Pfau of Bad Dürkheim, and Otto Ernst Fritsch, for risking their lives to save persecuted Jews.

The city of Frankfurt named a street after former Israeli Premier Ben Gurion and another after Dr. Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof, physician and inventor of Esperanto.

Christian-Jewish Cooperation

In a speech marking the 30th anniversary of the end of World War II, President Walter Scheel spoke of the relations between Germans and the Jews in Germany today: Before the war, almost a million members of the Jewish faith lived in our country as German citizens with equal rights. Today, there are less than forty thousand, more than half of whom have immigrated from Eastern Europe. It does not suffice to maintain good relations with the State of Israel. That is certainly very important; but it is also important that we establish the right relationship with our Jewish fellow-citizens in our own country. The few Jews who live in our midst are not Israelis, they are not foreigners, they are our German fellow-citizens. Even today, it is no easy decision for a Jew to want to be and remain a German. This decision involves a great capacity to forgive. We are grateful to them. The fate of a German must never again be determined by the fact that he is of Jewish origin.

He again spoke of the attitude of the Germans toward their Jewish fellow-citizens when he visited the Leo Baeck Institute in New York in June:

My visit here is more than a formal courtesy and more than the observation of a tradition. It is intended to tell you how conscious we are of the significance that the long, uniquely brilliant, and uniquely dark history of the German Jews has had, and still has today, for the entire German people. . . . And so, in this house, every German who is conscious of his debt to his spiritual past enters his spiritual homeland. Free, democratic Germany does not desire, and is not able, to live without the great contributions of German Jews to our culture. We need them. We honor them. We love them.

Official Germany's championship of the rights and interests of Jews also became apparent in its vote on the November UN General Assembly racism resolution. The German delegation voted against the resolution equating Zionism with racism, which, the federal government declared, not only "lacks any basis," but also created "significant dangers" for the future work of the UN. It further represented a new setback to efforts for a peaceful solution of the Middle East conflict, to which the Federal government was firmly committed. SPD said the resolution was in contradiction to historical truth and to the Zionist movement's own views. Hans Koschnick, mayor of Bremen and SPD deputy chairman, declared that it was an insult to all those who, at the risk of their lives, had resisted the terrible racist madness of antisemitism during the Nazi period. It was especially macabre that the UN

resolution almost precisely coincided with the anniversary of "that unholy Crystal Night which is charged to our account." FDP Chairman Genscher declared that the equation of Zionism with racism was "a challenge to our conscience. We reject it." The president of the German-Israeli Society, SPD Bundestag Deputy Heinz Westphal, stated: "That which has found a majority in the glass palace on the East River is antisemitism. The United Nations must not degenerate into a playground for fanaticism run wild. We won't take part in that!" CDU/CSU, the churches, the trade-union federation, and other organizations, as well as the mass media, unanimously condemned the anti-Zionist resolution. The Central Committee of German Catholics felt that it abetted antisemitism in an irresponsible manner.

The new Vatican directives for the improvement of relations between the Church and the Jewish people were unanimously hailed by German public opinion, the mass media, and the German Catholic Church. The Central Committee of German Catholics said it was grateful for the new directives. Jewish community representatives in Germany also spoke of hope for the future and of an unmistakable sign of a desire for reconciliation and cooperation. Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Berlin community, called the Vatican's long-overdue definition of its position a contribution to a better relationship and understanding between Jews and Christians. Even if Israel was not specifically mentioned in the document, he declared, it could not fail to have consequences for the Jewish state.

In the summer, after almost two years of preparation, the German Evangelical Church published a study, *Christen und Juden* ("Christians and Jews"), which can be regarded as the latest authoritative statement of the position of Evangelical Christians toward Jews and the State of Israel. On the general question of Christian-Jewish relations it says:

The guilt of past omissions imposes on Christians in Germany the special duty of fighting the newly rising antisemitism, also in the form of politically and socially motivated anti-Zionism, and of participating in restructuring our relationship to the Jews. . . This study . . . is to help transcend the consequences of past estrangement and alienation and shake up entrenched attitudes, so that a continuing dialogue and more fundamental consideration can take place.

It also was to stimulate discussion on Jewish affairs in the Evangelical communities and theological scholarship, and to promote contacts between Christians and Jews. Jews greeted the study as generally positive. Jewish commentators, though critical of some of its theological formulations, praised it as a Christian approach to the Jews, expressed with a clarity unprecedented for any church in Germany, and, as such, as a useful basis for future Christian-Jewish dialogue.

During the 16th German Evangelical Church Congress in Frankfurt in June, the Evangelical Juden und Christen study group and the Evangelical Kirche und Israel committee concerned themselves with Jewish, Jewish-Christian, and Israeli problems, and arranged joint religious services and Bible colloquies, as well as discussions. An exhibition of *Jüdisches Leben im Alten Frankfurt* ("Jewish Life in Old Frankfurt") was simultaneously shown in the city's Paulskirche.

Numerous other Evangelical and Catholic groups, as well as the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, sponsored interfaith meetings in 1975. Among various subjects was "Jews in Religious Education," discussed in October at a seminar at the monastery of Andechs. Its participants concluded that, 30 years after Auschwitz, religious instruction in German schools still inculcated anti-Jewish prejudices in many students; that revision of religious textbooks and education was therefore urgently needed. At another seminar, in Nordhorn in September, 600 organized young Christians declared their solidarity with Israel.

The high point of the work of the German Coordinating Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and its affiliated local groups was the annual Brotherhood Week, March 2-9. Its theme was "Focus Jerusalem—Symbol and Reality." The 1975 Buber-Rosenzweig Medal of the Coordinating Council was awarded to the Benedictine abbot Dr. Laurentius Klein of Jerusalem, "in recognition of his services in bringing together Christians and Jews, especially in the Holy City of Jerusalem." In the fall the medal was also given to Anglican Archbishop George Appleton of London, who, until 1974, had been Archbishop in Jerusalem where the Coordinating Council citation read, he had worked "for a new Jerusalem uniting all religions and men"—Jews, Christians, and Moslems.

"How New Is The Old Testament?" was the theme of the German Brotherhood Week in March 1976. On this occasion Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich of Basel, the Swiss-Jewish scholar and European director of B'nai B'rith, was awarded the 1976 Buber-Rosenzweig medal of the Coordinating Council for his work and achievements in the field of Christian-Jewish conciliation and dialogue over many years.

In June 1975 in Hamburg, the Coordinating Council, in cooperation with the International Council of Christians and Jews, arranged the first international symposium of scholars on "The Holocaust and Its Lessons for Today," a follow-up to conferences held in a number of other countries, including the United States. The closing session adopted a resolution stating that much remained to be done in the investigation of the Nazi genocide of the Jews, its ideological background and meaning.

In October the Aachen and Düsseldorf Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation held a get-acquainted week, primarily for young Germans, on the theme, "Israel—People, Faith, State."

A Working Group of Jewish Collections in the German Federal Republic and West Berlin was formed in Cologne in January 1976 to save and preserve the remnants of Jewish history and culture here, and to set up a document and research center on German-Jewish history and culture.

The Berlin municipality continued its program of inviting former Jewish residents who had fled from Nazi persecution for a week's visit at its expense. The number of visitors reached 5,000 in June 1975. A Martin Buber Youth Hostel, dedicated in Überlingen on Lake Constance in July, was built with funds from the estate of Werner Haberland, whose last wish had been to make possible a dialogue between German and Jewish youths from all parts of the world in a place of their own.

In November a memorial for the Jewish soldiers killed in World War I and for

the Jewish victims of Nazism was unveiled at the Jewish cemetery in Ingolstadt (Bavaria). Also in November, a memorial for the Jewish Nazi victims was unveiled in Beckum (Westphalia).

The people of Osnabrück, Lower Saxony, spent a substantial sum in 1975 to purchase pictures by Jewish artist Felix Nussbaum, recipient of the 1931 prize of the Prussian Academy of Art, a concentration camp casualty who had once lived in the city. The Osnabrück museum of cultural history had a collection of nearly sixty paintings by Nussbaum. The Federal Service Cross with ribbon was presented to Mrs. Mieke Monjau of Neuss, near Düsseldorf, for hiding and caring for persecuted Jews during the war. Dr. Heinrich Grüber, the West Berlin church leader who had set up Büro Grüber in the Nazi years, which helped save numerous persons from persecution, and who had been the only German witness at the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, died on November 29, at the age of 84.

Restitution

Up to January 1, 1975, the Ministry of Finance reported, compensation to victims of World War II totaled DM 50,155 million, of which DM 37,796 million was under the Federal Indemnification Law; DM 3,809 million under the Federal Restitution Law; DM 3,450 million under the agreement with Israel; DM 1,000 million under the global agreements with 12 nations, and DM 4,100 million in various other payments. It estimated future payments at DM 35,145 million. As of January 1, 1975, 41,967, or 0.98 per cent, of the indemnification claims and 5,095, or 0.7 per cent, of the restitution claims remained to be settled.

Discussions, conducted on the Jewish side primarily by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, continued in Bonn on the government's plan to pay an international foundation a final sum of DM 600 million for restitution payments in individual hardship cases. (AJYB, 1976 [Vol. 76], p. 348). At the beginning of the year the government said that execution of the plan required full agreement by all parties in the Bundestag, and that complete agreement had not yet been reached on certain points, particularly on the question of how payments were to be made. In October Bonn announced that the establishment of the fund would have to be postponed, since no money would be available for it in the near future.

The federal government concluded an agreement with Poland which, among other things, was to invalidate all Warsaw's claims for indemnification for past German crimes. For this purpose, the Federal Republic obligated itself to pay DM 1.3 billion for the settlement of Polish pension claims, and to grant Poland a long-term credit of DM 1 billion.

Nazi Trials

In July the Central Office for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Ludwigsburg stated it was still preparing some 300 cases against persons suspected of Nazi crimes of violence. Evidence against some 3,000 others was already in the hands of the

courts and prosecuting attorneys. It was becoming ever more difficult, the office claimed, to institute proceedings and to carry them through to a conclusion, not only because documentary evidence was insufficient, but also because many victims were reluctant to come forward as witnesses. Some 30 per cent of the victims, whose testimony was essential for conviction, were no longer prepared to testify. Although only four-and-one-half years remained before the expiration of the statute of limitations for Nazi crimes, German justice officials were still receiving hitherto unknown material on Nazi crimes, mainly from Poland, the Soviet Union, and Czechoslovakia.

In January the Bundestag ratified the 1971 German-French treaty on the prosecution in German courts of Nazi criminals who had been condemned *in absentia* by French courts. The CDU/CSU opposition voted against the agreement on legal grounds. The Bundesrat ratified it in February. After it came into force, several hundred French court decisions were examined from a German juridical standpoint. The Central Office in Ludwigsburg estimated that, under this agreement, the German courts would eventually be in a position to call to account fewer than two dozen German citizens for crimes they committed in France.

The Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany again called for clemency for German war criminals held in foreign prisons. It also asked for the release from Spandau prison of Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess, whose continued incarceration Council chairman Bishop Helmut Class described as responding to past inhumanity with new inhumanity to an old and sick man.

Hamburg: 66-year-old former Warsaw Gestapo chief Ludwig Hahn was found guilty of the murder of at least 230,000 persons and sentenced to life imprisonment in July. In the court's judgment he shared responsibility for the organizational and technical details of the annihilation of Warsaw's Jews. Two former SS members and subordinates of Hahn, Hans Baecker, 62, and Helmut Orf, 59, were sentenced in August to six years each as accomplices. Two other SS members, Herbert Hundt, 63, and Kurt Klebeck, 69, were acquitted.

Hamburg: Former SS sergeant Wilhelm Eickhoff, 54, was convicted in March 1976 of participation in the murder of Jews in Russia and sentenced to 12 years in prison. Codefendant SS sergeant Josef Aigner received a suspended prison term of two years. Ernst Gollak, a 68-year-old former SS man, was found guilty of the murder of Jews near Lublin, Poland, and sentenced to life imprisonment in April 1976. 65-year-old codefendant Heinrich Birmes was acquitted for lack of evidence.

Memmingen: In February the retrial of former SS member Kurt Dannenberg brought the same verdict as his first trial in 1971—two years' imprisonment as an accomplice in the murder of at least 15 Jews in Poland.

Munich: Dr. Heinrich Schütz, 69, a physician in Dachau concentration camp, was sentenced to ten years in prison as an accomplice to murder by conducting medical experiments on prisoners, in November.

Hanover: Former KAPO and senior prisoner Johann Heinrich Wexler, 66, was found guilty of the murder of a Jewish fellow-prisoner at the concentration camp of Hanover-Ahlem and sentenced to life imprisonment in December.

Wiesbaden: Former SS lieutenant Hermann Worthoff, 65, was convicted of complicity in the murder of more than 8,500 Jews in the district of Lublin and sentenced to eight years in prison in December.

Frankfurt: Former SS sergeant and guard member at Auschwitz, Willie Sawatzki, 56, was acquitted in February 1976 of charges of complicity in mass murder.

Bochum: Former police sergeant Willy Thiermann, 69, was acquitted of the murder of six Jews at the Glebokie forced-labor camp near Minsk because of contradictory testimony by the surviving witnesses.

Several trials of Nazi criminals began during the year.

Lüneburg: Former police officer Albert Krüger, 59, went on trial in September for the murder of at least 176 Jews and Russians in White Russia. In court, he described Jews and gypsies as "inferior peoples" because they allegedly had been vagrants and thieves rather than workers during the war, and that therefore the White Russians, too, had supported their extermination. But, he said, the mass executions had been carried out by SS troops, not by him.

Giessen: Eight former Gestapo members went on trial for participating in the murder of several hundred Jews and Poles in Ciechanow, Poland, in October. Proceedings against main suspects Hartmut Pulmer and Friedrich Schultz were stopped in March 1976 on account of their ill-health.

Düsseldorf: 15 former SS members, guards at Maidanek concentration camp—Hermann Hackmann, 62; Hildegard M.L. Lächert, 55; Alice E.M. Orlowski, 72; August W. Reinartz, 65; Hermine Braunsteiner-Ryan, 56; Rosa Süß, 55; Thomas Ellwanger, 58; Charlotte K. Mayer, 57; Ernst H. Schmidt, 63; Heinrich W.G. Groffmann, 55; Fritz H. Petrick, 62; Heinz H.K. Villain, 54; Emil J. Laurich, 54, Arnold G. Strippel, 64, and Hermine Böttcher, 57—went on trial in November.

Düsseldorf: In April a court dropped the retrial of Willi Schroth, 69, who had been sentenced in 1971 to seven years in prison as an accomplice in the murder of Jews in Poland, on grounds of physical incompetence to stand trial.

In Kiel, investigations were dropped because of insufficient incriminating evidence against Adolf Asbach, 70, one-time Nazi district governor (*Kreishauptmann*) at Brzezany, Galicia, and postwar minister of social affairs in the state of Schleswig-Holstein, as well as against ex-policemen Alois Schüller, 68, and Alois Dlugasch, 69, for their part in the murder of Jews.

In Flensburg, in February 1976, a court stopped investigations against ex-judge Ernst B. Ehlers, former SS colonel and Nazi security chief in Belgium and northern France, for complicity in the mass murder of Jews on the grounds that the evidence appeared insufficient for a conviction. The public prosecutor appealed.

Former SS *Obersturmbannführer* Victor Araijs, sought for 25 years on suspicion of participating in the massacre of Jews in Latvia, was arrested in July near Frankfurt.

In West Berlin, several Nazi criminals were amnestied and released from prison: Eichmann's collaborator Fritz Wöhrn, 70, sentenced in 1971 to 12 years in prison as an accomplice in the murder of Jews; former SS *Obersturmbannführer* Alfred

Filbert, 70, sentenced in 1962 to life imprisonment for participating in the murder of at least 6,800 Jews; former Kapo in Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, Otto Locke, 62, who had served 20 years of a life sentence for the murder of Jews; former physician Dr. Gottfried Matthes, 71, who had served 21 years of a life sentence for participating in the killing of mentally ill persons in Poland.

Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister, published his memoirs as prisoner in Spandau, *Spandauer Tagebücher* ("Spandau Diaries"), which headed the German best-seller lists. He donated DM 300,000 of the proceeds to a home for aged Jewish refugees from Germany in the United States.

In Cologne, in February 1976, Paris lawyer Serge Klarsfeld was found guilty of complicity in the attempted kidnapping in 1971 of ex-Nazi Gestapo chief in Paris Kurt Lischka, and sentenced to a suspended prison term of two months.

Extremism

According to its report for 1974, published in summer 1975, the Office for the Defense of the Federal Constitution found, upon full assessment of extremist activities and incidents, that they posed no serious danger to internal security or democracy. The rise in the number of politically motivated acts of violence, the report stated, was 50 per cent less than in 1973. Terrorist acts of the extreme Left rose from 70 to 104 and resulted in two deaths. Acts of violence by right-wing extremists remained the same, at 22, but they were also responsible for 136 political disturbances. At the end of 1974 there were 302 left-wing extremist groups with a membership of 102,000, as against 317 groups with 87,000 members in 1973. The number of right-wing extremist groups rose from 107 to 119, but their membership dropped from 21,700 to 21,400. The largest of these, the National Democratic party (NPD), had 11,500 members, 500 fewer than in 1973.

The annual report on the Federal Republic's internal security, published by the Interior Ministry of Rhineland-Palatinate in mid-1975, maintained that a small sector of the population supported small militant Nazi groups which did not shrink from death threats, arson, or property damage. Such groups, it continued, had appeared, or were being formed, in almost all the states of the Federal Republic. Members of these so-called National Socialist fighting groups behaved in a conspiratorial way, were interested in weapons and munition, and maintained an extensive network of contacts in the North European states, Belgium, Southern Tyrol, and the United States. They dismissed Nazi crimes as inconsequential, stirred up hatred against the Jews, and supported the taking of hostages. The goal of these groups was the destruction of democracy. In an attempt to escape punishment for such past crimes as arson, desecration of Jewish cemeteries, and theft of weapons, activists of these groups had gone abroad where they continued working for their political goals.

At the end of 1974 there were 2,086 members of extremist organizations in public service, including 610 right-wing extremists. In October the Bundestag, over the

opposition of CDU/CSU, passed a law banning Communists and right-wing extremists from positions in administration, police, army, and education. In November it was defeated in the Bundesrat by the CDU/CSU majority, and parliamentary efforts for a compromise also failed early in 1976. The state (Länder) governments were now expected to solve the problem of political extremists in public service in their own way.

According to a public-opinion poll, 27 per cent of respondents thought that the appearance of a new Hitler was possible if the Federal Republic underwent a severe crisis with much higher than current unemployment and an increase in terrorist attacks; 47 per cent ruled out the possibility of a new Hitler. Seventy per cent wanted to let the past lie and felt that the mass media should stop reporting on the horrors of the Hitler era; 25 per cent wanted further reports on the subject.

During the year the extreme rightist Deutsche Bürgerinitiative, a group led by Manfred Roeder, a lawyer of Bensheim, attracted particular attention. On the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp, January 20, followers of Roeder and of the Kampfbund Deutscher Soldaten, headed by the long-familiar neo-Nazi Erwin Schönborn, demonstrated outside the Frankfurt office of Dr. Robert M.W. Kempner, deputy U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials. They shouted such anti-Jewish and antidemocratic slogans as "Oust the Jewish Zionist rabble from Germany" and "Down with democracy." Later, Roeder and Schönborn demanded that Premier Helmut Kohl of Rhineland-Palatinate release the Nazi criminal Leopold Windisch, who was serving a life sentence for the murder of Jews; Kohl refused. On August 27 some 70 Roeder supporters staged an anti-Jewish demonstration in front of a Bensheim court which was deliberating a libel suit filed by Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish documentation center in Vienna, against Roeder. They shouted slogans and carried posters with such messages as "Down with international Jewry," "Jewish swine," "The Itzigs are back again," "Too few Jews gassed," "Death to the Jews," "Jewry declared war on the Reich in 1933; that war still continues." Jewish circles in the Federal Republic strongly protested against these demonstrations. SPD Bundestag deputy Manfred Coppel declared that a closer watch must be kept on neo-fascist groups to prevent similar incidents; that right-wing extremists must be put down; that the German Federal Republic, in particular, could not tolerate Roeder's activities against Kempner and Wiesenthal. In February 1976, a Darmstadt court found Roeder guilty of incitement to hatred against the Jews and sentenced him to a suspended prison term of seven months and a fine of DM 3000. In March a Heilbronn court fined Roeder DM 5000 for insulting the memory of a former German anti-Hitler resistance member. In April a court of honor of the Frankfurt Bar Association suspended Roeder from the Bar on the ground that he had seriously violated the principles of his profession by his year-long anti-democratic, anti-Jewish activities.

Other right-wing extremist groups sought to strengthen their influence by uniting. A key figure in this effort was Gerhard Frey, 42, who headed both the Deutsche Volkunion (German Peoples' Union), a splinter party, and the ideological group

Freiheitlicher Rat (Liberal Council), and published the extreme-right Munich weekly *Deutsche National-Zeitung*. (With a circulation of about 100,000, this paper continued to be not merely the largest publication of the political right, but one of the most widely read German weeklies.) Frey and Martin Mussgnug, chairman of NPD, merged their parties under the name of NPD-Vereinigte Rechte (NPD-United Right). The basis for permanent partnership was set down in a "Bonn Declaration," issued by Frey and Mussgnug in June. In October the NPD party congress in Ketsch elected Frey to the executive committee of the party over the opposition of a strong minority who regarded him and his paper, because of their extremist activities, as a heavy political burden for NPD.

NPD deputy chairman Günter Deckert of Baden-Württemberg declared open war on Frey. At the beginning of the year Deckert, a high-school teacher, had won a court case against the state of Baden-Württemberg which, because of his leading role in NPD (long-time chairman of its youth organization Junge Nationaldemokraten), wanted to remove him from his teaching post, temporarily suspended him, and docked his pay. The court decided that he must be retained in his job because of failure to prove NPD's opposition to the constitution. A Schleswig-Holstein court likewise decided that Otto Führer, deputy chairman of the state's NPD and a teacher, who had sung Nazi songs at a school festival, could continue to teach. Dr. Wilhelm Stäglich, a retired judge of the Hamburg financial court and member of NPD, had his pension cut by one-fifth for five years because he had expressed doubt about the veracity of the Auschwitz crimes, and defended the conditions in the concentration camp in an article published in the extreme-rightist monthly *Nation Europa*.

In Hamburg, in February 1976, Wolf-Dieter Eckart, the 36-year-old leader of the Freundeskreis der NSDAP (Circle of Friends of NSDAP) who propagated Nazi ideas and anti-Jewish and antidemocratic agitation, calling Hitler's NSDAP "the best political and genetic flower of the whole German people," was sentenced to eight months suspended imprisonment and a fine of DM 3,000. In Düsseldorf a court ordered the confiscation of some 20,000 recordings of "Historische Tondokumente zur Zeitgeschichte" (Historic Audio-documents on Contemporary History) featuring Nazi songs and symbols, speeches by Nazi leaders, and pro-Nazi commentaries.

In Düsseldorf, in February 1976, six members of the Nationalsozialistische Kampfgruppe Grossdeutschland (National Socialist Combat Group for Greater Germany), including three West German army sergeants, were convicted of founding a criminal, conspiratory group and possession of arms, and sentenced to various suspended prison terms of six to 12 months or were fined, while three others were acquitted.

In Mainz, in March 1976, 23-year-old US citizen Gerhard Lauck, head of an American Nazi party (NSDAP-Auslandsorganisation), was arrested and expelled from West Germany because of anti-democratic and anti-Jewish activities he had carried on there for some years. Arresting him the police found 10,000 stickers in his bag inscribed "Kaufe nicht bei Juden" (Don't Buy in Jewish Shops). A month

later, a friend and ally of Lauck, 46-year-old Kurt Müller, head of the extremist splinter group NS-Kampfgruppe (National Socialist Combat Group), was convicted of the propagation of Nazi symbols and incitement of hatred against the Jews, and sentenced to a suspended prison term of six months and a fine of DM 1000.

In August 1975 unidentified persons made an unsuccessful attempt to burn down the Central Office for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Ludwigsburg with two Molotov cocktails which, however, did not explode. Also in August Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Berlin Jewish community, received a letter-bomb that aroused his suspicion and was disarmed.

In September members of neo-Nazi groups in Italy, Switzerland, and Austria, as well as Germany, met in Frankfurt at the invitation of the Volkssozialistische Bewegung Deutschlands (People's Socialist Movement of Germany), formed by several extreme-right splinter groups, among them the Nationalrevolutionäre Bewegung, which regarded itself as a new Nazi party and the successor to Hitler's NSDAP. The movement's program included racial segregation and struggle against imperialism and Zionism. On the anniversary of Hitler's beer-hall putsch of November 9, 1923, some of the group's members laid a wreath bearing the inscription, "Ihr werdet doch siegen!" ("You will triumph, nevertheless"), at the Feldherrnhalle in Munich. In the same month, shortly after its dedication, a monument to the victims of Nazism at Freiburg in the Black Forest was defaced by young members of the militant rightist splinter group Kampfgruppe Prien with swastika stickers of American origin. In November, too, a wreath with the words "Sie starben für uns—NSDAP Frankfurt/Main" ("They died for us—NSDAP, Frankfurt/Main") was found at the monument to the war dead in the main Frankfurt cemetery.

Foreign Extremists

In 1974 the number of foreign extremist organizations listed in the Federal Republic rose to 236 (226 in 1973), 32 of them rightist and the rest leftist. At the same time, their membership fell from 52,400 to some 45,000. They were responsible for 87 terrorist acts in the Federal Republic during the year, perpetrated mainly by Croatian nationalists, Palestinians, and Iranian and Turkish leftists. The Federal Office for the Defense of the Constitution maintained in its report that the main purpose of their activities was to prepare for violent uprisings in their home countries. Therefore, while these activities certainly were disruptive of the internal security of the Federal Republic, they were not viewed as a serious threat.

During 1975 the foreign extremist groups in the Federal Republic appeared to be quiescent. However, the numerous Arab groups, mostly students, continued their anti-Zionist and anti-Israel propaganda, as did their German friends of the extreme left. At the beginning of the year clashes occurred between Arabs and pro-Israel German students at the Darmstadt Technische Hochschule, when 25 Arab students prevented the showing of the American film *Exodus*, based on the novel by Leon Uris, in the main auditorium of the school.

In February 1976 unidentified persons made a bomb attack on the West Berlin

office of the State of Israel Bonds. A group calling itself Arm of the Arab Revolution claimed responsibility.

Antisemitism

For the most part, antisemitism appeared in the guise of anti-Zionism, especially as espoused by extremist groups of left and right. But of late, a few tiny right-wing splinter groups, especially Deutsche Bürgerinitiative and Freundeskreis der NSDAP, have resorted to Nazi-style antisemitism in public statements and in print. In both cases, the prosecuting attorney's office investigated, and a court ordered Roeder, who heads the first group, to undergo psychological tests; for it felt that such extreme statements could only be the product of a deranged mind.

A number of Jewish cemeteries in various parts of the country were desecrated during the year: in Frankfurt, in March and September; in Grosskrotzenburg, in April; in Karlsruhe, in May; in Weingarten, in May; in Cologne, in July, and in Schwetzingen, in November; in Höxter, Salzkotten and Dülmen, all in Westphalia, in March 1976. In Frankfurt, more than 200 head stones were overturned and damaged, and many were defaced with swastikas and such anti-Jewish slogans as "Juda verreckt" (Judah perish).

In February a West Berlin court fined a young Tunisian, Abd er Razak ben Amor, DM 1,050 for screaming at a Jewish woman, "You old Jewish swine, they forgot you in the gassing!"

In June the German Press Council in Bonn publicly censured the periodical *Auto Motor und Sport* for publishing an article using anti-Jewish invectives against Arno M. Katin, a ministerial councillor in the federal Interior Ministry. It held the article to be an offense against fair journalism, which requires that no one be discriminated against because of race or religion.

Bertolt Brecht's *Threepenny Opera*, staged under the direction of Hansgünther Heyme at the Cologne municipal theatre, was criticized by Jewish circles as antisemitic because Peachum, the fence, was portrayed as a Jewish capitalist. After public protests and the repeated objections of Brecht's West German publishers the anti-Jewish distortion of the role was changed, but only after more than 30 performances with the "Jew Peachum." Brecht's heirs in East Berlin forbade any further performances of the play at that theatre.

Because of the continuing protests of Jews and non-Jews against the production of the Passion Play in past years (AJYB, 1971 [Vol. 72], pp. 388-89; 1972 [Vol. 73], p. 494), the town council of Oberammergau in Upper Bavaria decided to revise the text of the 300-year-old play. The old text had been criticized as anti-Jewish because it put responsibility for the death of Christ on the Jewish people. The revision was to eliminate the passages that gave rise to the charge of antisemitism.

In March 1976 the Frankfurt Suhrkamp publishers stopped the sale of a book containing a play by 30-year-old West German author Rainer Werner Fassbinder, *Der Müll, die Stadt und der Tod* ("Garbage, the City and Death"), after it had been

criticized by Jews and non-Jews as causing and fostering anti-Jewish prejudices by its negative presentation of a Jewish businessman participating in real-estate racketeering.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography

On January 1, 1975, the Jewish communities of the Federal Republic and West Berlin had a total of 27,199 registered members. By January 1, 1976, the number had risen to 27,933, of whom 14,757 were men and 13,176 were women, with a total average age of 45.1. During 1975 there were 1,548 immigrants, 392 emigrants, 44 conversions to Judaism, 74 births, and 524 deaths.

Communal Life

The Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland (Central Council of Jews in Germany) celebrated its 25th anniversary as the representative body of the Jewish communities. During these years, it declared, its chief tasks have been fighting prejudice and extremism, strengthening Jewish consciousness and supporting the State of Israel. Its 1975 Rosh Ha-shanah message summed up the situation of the community:

The future of our Judaism will largely depend on the development of new forces and the filling of increasingly painful gaps. We have only feeble forces with which to tackle a solution of this problem. We, therefore, strongly count on the help we receive from the German public and its responsible representatives, as well as from our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

According to Alexander Ginsburg, Zentralrat general secretary, Jews in Germany today had every reason to worry about their communal administration and spiritual leadership. It was, he said, impossible to obtain from abroad rabbis, teachers of religion, cantors, and youth leaders who would be familiar enough with German cultural conditions to be able to master the necessary tasks and educational problems. He pointed with pride to the fact that the Association of Jewish Students in Germany had 1,100-1,200 members. "We are happy," he said, "that our membership includes the first dozens of younger Jewish professors and instructors." For they and the youth were the future pillars of Jewish work.

Besides the community members, Ginsburg claimed, there was what he called a "shadow quota," perhaps one-tenth as large, of Jews who expected to stay in the Federal Republic only a short time. "But," he continued, "there are also people among them who are afraid to admit their Judaism . . . because of bitter experiences during and also after the war." One of the difficult tasks of the community, according to Ginsburg, was the care of immigrants from Eastern Europe, people who had left their homelands, sometimes by way of Israel, because they wanted to come to

the West. They created a host of social and humanitarian problems to be solved in cooperation with the German authorities and international Jewish organizations.

Werner Nachmann, Zentralrat board chairman, was reelected to a fourth term of office. In his view, the Jewish community made a major contribution to the Federal Republic's relatively quick return to the family of democratic countries. During the first postwar years Jews in Germany facilitated the reestablishment of its economic contacts and political acceptance abroad. He stressed that the Jewish community today was more than religious; it had political aspects as well. Jewish citizens had the right to ask their government to give attention to Jewish interests. Among these were also the Federal Republic's obligations to Israel. Contrary to the earlier view that the Jewish community was only a temporary one, it now was a consolidated entity, highly regarded both in Germany and abroad, particularly in Israel where initial mistrust was gradually transformed into a positive relationship on an increasingly political level.

The Zentralrat maintained close relations with German government officials and political parties, and took a public stand on domestic and foreign affairs of concern to itself, other Jewish communities, and Israel. It gave particular attention to extremist manifestations in the Federal Republic, sharply condemned the revival of neo-Nazi activities, and repeatedly urged the government to take energetic measures against them. The Zentralrat also criticized the contacts of Minister of State Moersch with a PLO functionary in Beirut. In view of Bonn's good relations with both Israel and the Arab states, the Zentralrat held, the Federal Republic could undertake the role of a mediator in the Middle East and, together with the United States, contribute to an eventual peace in the area. It decided to deactivate its membership in the German UNESCO Committee until the anti-Israel resolutions in UNESCO were rescinded. It also joined in the world-wide protests against the November UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, declaring: "The anti-Zionism resolution, which would certainly have been approved by Hitler and Stalin, should cause the freedom-loving states to reexamine their attitude to the UN."

On their visits to Germany, Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon discussed Jewish problems in Germany with representatives of the Zentralrat, and its representatives had the opportunity to meet with political leaders on several trips to Israel. In February the Central Welfare Office of Jews in Germany held a seminar in Cologne on public aid to the aged, in which social workers from the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, and Yugoslavia exchanged information.

Between 1973 and 1975 the Jewish community in the Federal Republic and West Berlin raised funds totaling DM 53,647,000 in support of Israel.

Religious Life

The Conference of Rabbis in the Federal Republic met in Würzburg in June; its chairman, regional Rabbi Fritz Elieser Bloch, presided. It concerned itself with the

problem of training rabbis, which it considered vital to the future of Jewish life. The Conference published the fifth volume of its periodical publication UDIM, edited by Rabbis Bloch, Curt C. Lehrmann, and Ernst Roth.

The annual European Weekend of the European executive of the World Union for Progressive Judaism took place in Karlsruhe, Mannheim, and Heidelberg, July 4–6. Thirty representatives, including 12 rabbis, of Liberal communities and central organizations came from five countries. It was the first postwar meeting in Germany of any Jewish religious world organization.

Jewish Education and Youth

The Bundesverband Jüdischer Studenten in Deutschland (Federal Association of Jewish Students in Germany) complained of the fragmentation of Jewish youth education. It also deplored the lack of interest in the Association's work on the part of Jewish communities and organizations, but also that of its own members in Jewish activity. Nevertheless, in 1975 it held several seminars for the purpose of social contact and political education; took part in political activities on behalf of the State of Israel and against anti-Jewish discrimination throughout the world, and actively participated at some universities in shaping political education.

In June Ron Finkel of London, president of the World Union of Jewish Students, visited the Zentralrat. Representatives of the Association of Jewish Students in Germany were invited to discuss the problems of Jewish students in Germany and cooperation with the World Union. The emphasis was on ways of intensifying the work of individual student groups and the central organization, and of drawing the students into political, cultural, and communal work.

In May about 100 young Jews participated in a youth meeting in Bavaria, arranged by the Bavarian State Association of Jewish Religious Communities and the Zionist Youth of Germany. It was the largest attendance at a meeting of this kind in recent years.

Daniel Holzapfel, an 18-year-old high-school student in Holzminden and a member of the local chess association, won the title of youth chess champion of Lower Saxony.

Commemorations

In January representatives of the Jewish community and public figures in Germany assembled in West Berlin to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp. Messages from such political leaders as Chancellor Schmidt, CDU chairman Kohl, and FDP chairman Genscher expressed solidarity with the victims of Nazi persecution, and their determination to advance democratic principles. Among the participants were 65 survivors of the camp, for whom the West Berlin Senate held a reception. At the reception, Mayor Schütz declared that, in past years, Berlin had worked at making reparation for Nazi wrongs, and that

this was a priority obligation for the future as well. On April 27 Jewish communal leaders, public personages, and camp survivors met on the sites of Bergen-Belsen and Dachau to commemorate the liberation of the camps. Other ceremonies took place on the sites of the concentration camps Neuengamme near Hamburg and Flossenbürg in Bavaria.

In Hohne near Belsen, a monument was unveiled in June to the more than 10,000 persons who had survived Belsen but died after its liberation and were buried in the town's cemetery. On that occasion representatives of the Zentralrat, the Central Association of Those Affected by the Nuremberg Laws, and the British Army unveiled memorial plaques with Hebrew, French, Polish, English, and German inscriptions.

Earlier, on April 19, the Jewish communities commemorated the Warsaw ghetto uprising. On April 20 a wreath was placed at the Hamburg school on Bullenhuser Damm, where 30 years ago 20 Jewish boys and girls from various countries, aged between five and 12, had been hanged to wipe out the traces of medical experiments performed on them.

The anniversary of the end of the war was observed on May 8 in the West Berlin Jewish Community House by representatives of the city of Berlin, the Jewish community, organizations of persecutees, and foreign missions. Wreaths were laid on the Community House memorial for the victims of Nazism and the Allied war dead.

On the anniversary of the November 1938 "Crystal Night," Heinz Galinski, speaking about the rise in the activities of neo-Nazi groups, criticized "the strange hesitation of political circles in this country to take action under existing law against organized neo-Nazism." The federal and state governments, he declared, must, "in the spirit of militant democracy," put an end to the agitation against Zionism and the Jewish community by extremists of the right and left. This agitation, he warned, was all the more dangerous in that it was directed primarily to the younger generation of Germans who lacked the needed political armor for immunity.

Publications

Strong interest in books by Jewish authors and on Jewish subjects, particularly those on the State of Israel, continued. Among the latter were: Yekutiel Deligdisch, *Die Einstellung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland zum Staate Israel* ("The Attitude of the German Federal Republic to the State of Israel"; Verlag Neue Gesellschaft, Bonn-Bad Godesberg); Walter Laqueur, *Der Weg zum Staat Israel: Geschichte des Zionismus* ("A History of Zionism"; Europaverlag, Munich); Peter Weimar and Erich Zenger, *Exodus: Geschichten und Geschichte der Befreiung Israels* ("Exodus: Tales and History of Israel's Liberation"; Verlag Katholisches Bibelwerk, Stuttgart); Chaim Herzog, *Entscheidung in der Wüste: Die Lehren des Jom-Kippur-Krieges* ("The War of Atonement: October 1973"; Ullstein Verlag, Berlin); Lothar Rühl, *Israels letzter Krieg: Der Jom-Kippur-Krieg* ("Israel's Last War: The Yom Kippur War"; Hoffmann und Campe Verlag, Hamburg); Janusz Piekalkiewicz,

Israels langer Arm: Geschichte der israelischen Geheimdienste und Kommandounternehmen ("Israel's Long Arm: History of Israel's Secret Services and Commando Operations"; Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart); Jehuda Gera-Grünbaum and Aaron Zwergbaum, *Das Staatsangehörigkeitsrecht des Staates Israel* ("The Citizenship Law of the State of Israel"; Metzner Verlag, Frankfurt); Amos Elon, *Morgen in Jerusalem*; *Theodor Herzl: Sein Leben und Werk* ("Herzl"; Verlag Fritz Molden, Vienna); Golda Meir, *Mein Leben* ("My Life"; Hoffmann und Campe Verlag, Hamburg); Harold M. Blumberg, *Chaim Weizmann—His Life and Times* (Ullstein Verlag, Berlin); Marc Chagall, *Die Glasfenster von Jerusalem* ("The Jerusalem Windows"; Herder Verlag, Freiburg); Hans Kühner and David Harris, *Israel: Ein Reiseführer durch dreitausend Jahre* ("Israel: A Guide Through 3,000 Years"; Walter-Verlag, Freiburg), and two books by Joel Walbe, *Der Gesang Israels und seine Quellen* ("Israeli Song and its Sources"; Hans Christians Verlag, Hamburg) and *Alltagsleben in biblischer Zeit* ("Daily Life in Biblical Times"; Verlag C.J. Bucher, Luzern and Frankfurt).

Quite as intense appeared to be German interest in Judaism. Books published on the subject were: *Der Jerusalemer Talmud in deutscher Übersetzung. Band I: Berakhot* ("The Jerusalem Talmud in German Translation. Vol. I: Berakhot"; translated by Charles Horovitz, Verlag J.C.B. Mohr, Paul Siebeck, Tübingen); Ludwig Wächter, *Jüdischer und Christlicher Glaube* ("Jewish and Christian Faith"; Calwer Verlag, Stuttgart); Schalom ben-Chorin, *Jüdischer Glaube* ("Jewish Faith"; Verlag J.C.B. Mohr, Paul Siebeck, Tübingen); Robert R. Geis, *Vom unbekanntem Judentum, Neuauflage: Eine grundlegende Einführung in jüdisches Glaubensverständnis und jüdisches Glaubensleben* ("Of Unknown Judaism, New Edition: A Basic Introduction to Jewish Religious Belief and Jewish Religious Life"; Herder Verlag, Freiburg); Christian Schütz, *Verborgenheit Gottes: Martin Bubers Werk, Eine Gesamtdarstellung* ("The Eclipse of God: Martin Buber's Work, A Full Presentation"; Benziger Verlag, Cologne); Martin Buber, *Briefwechsel aus sieben Jahrzehnten. Band III: 1938–1965: 555 Briefe* ("Correspondence of Seven Decades. Volume III: 1938–1965: 555 Letters"; Verlag Lambert Schneider, Heidelberg); Friedrich Wilhelm Marquardt, *Die Juden und ihr Land: Die Geschichte der göttlichen Landverheissung* ("The Jews and Their Country: The History of the Divine Promise of the Land"; Siebenstern Taschenbuchverlag, Hamburg).

Works dealing with Christian-Jewish cooperation were: Hermann Levin Goldschmidt, *Weil wir Brüder sind: Biblische Besinnung für Juden und Christen* ("Because We Are Brothers: Biblical Contemplation for Jews and Christians"; Verlag Butzon & Bercker, Kevelaer); *Du, unser Vater: Jüdische Gebete für den Christen* ("Thou, Our Father: Jewish Prayers for Christians"; edited by Pnina Navé, Herder Verlag, Freiburg).

There were also several new books on antisemitism and the Nazi period: Charlotte Klein, *Theologie und Antisemitismus: Eine Studie zur deutschen theologischen Literatur der Gegenwart* ("Theology and Antisemitism: A Study of Contemporary German Theological Literature"; Christian Kaiser Verlag, Munich); Herbert E.

Tutas, *Nationalsozialismus und Exil: Die Politik des Dritten Reiches gegenüber der deutschen politischen Emigration 1933–1939* ("National Socialism and Exile: The Policy of the Third Reich Toward the German Political Emigration 1933–1939"; Hanser Verlag, Munich); Caesar Seligmann, *Erinnerungen 1860–1950* ("Recollections 1860–1950"; Waldemar Kramer Verlag, Frankfurt); Manès Sperber, *Die vergebliche Warnung: Erinnerungen 1918–1933* ("The Vain Warning: Reminiscences 1918–1933"; Europaverlag, Munich); Judith Kerr, *Warten bis der Frieden kommt: Leben in der Londoner Emigration 1940–1945* ("Waiting for Peace: Life in the London Emigration 1940–1945"; Otto Maier Verlag, Ravensburg).

Other nonfiction works included: Ronald W. Clark, *Albert Einstein: Leben und Werk* ("Einstein: The Life and Times"; Bechtle Verlag, Esslingen); Marthe Robert, *Sigmund Freud—zwischen Moses und Ödipus: Die jüdischen Wurzeln der Psychoanalyse* ("Sigmund Freud—Between Moses and Oedipus: The Jewish Roots of Psychoanalysis"; List-Verlag, Munich); Virginia Cowles, *Die Rothschilds: Geschichte einer Familie* ("Rothschilds: Family of Fortune"; Verlag Ploetz, Würzburg); Schalom ben-Chorin, *Jugend an der Isar: Erinnerungen* ("Youth on the Isar: Reminiscences"; List-Verlag, Munich); John Bunzl, *Klassenkampf in der Diaspora: Zur Geschichte der jüdischen Arbeiterbewegung* ("Class Struggle in the Diaspora: On the History of the Jewish Labor Movement"; Europaverlag, Munich).

Books of fiction and poetry included: Rose Ausländer, *Andere Zeichen* ("Other Signs"; Concept-Verlag, Düsseldorf), poems, and *Ohne Visum* ("Without Visa"; Sassafras-Verlag, Düsseldorf), poems and short prose pieces; Elie Wiesel, *Chassidische Feier* ("Hassidic Celebration"; Europaverlag, Munich); Chaim Potok, *Die Erwählten* ("The Chosen"; Wunderlich Verlag, Munich); Alexander Drozdzyński, *Jiddische Witze und Schmonzes* ("Yiddish Jokes and Trifles"; Droste Verlag, Düsseldorf).

Personalialia

The Zentralrat awarded the 1975 Leo Baeck prize to Jeanette Wolff, the 87-year-old West Berlin SPD politician and leading figure of Jewish life in postwar Germany. SPD honored her for 70 years of party membership. In a Bundestag discussion on the International Women's Year, she was praised as one of the political figures who, in past years, had been in the forefront of the struggle for women's rights, especially the rights of Jewish women.

President Scheel conferred the Great Service Cross of the Service Order of the German Federal Republic on Zentralrat board chairman Werner Nachmann "in recognition of his special services to the state and people." Dr. Arno B. Katin, a high official of the federal interior ministry, was awarded the Service Cross of the German Order of Merit for his contribution to the drafting of a federal law on environmental protection. The Service Cross with Ribbon of the German Order of Merit was awarded to West Berlin Jewish city councillor Herbert Tworoger for his activities in the field of Jewish communal life and Christian-Jewish cooperation. The

city of Fürth, near Nuremberg, presented its Golden Citizen Medal to U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger, a native of this city, in December. Moses Lustig, editor and publisher of the *Münchener Jüdische Nachrichten*, received the Federal Service Cross with Ribbon for his journalistic activities over 30 years.

U.S. Deputy Prosecutor in the Nuremberg trials Robert Kempner received the Wilhelm Leuschner medal, the highest honor of the state of Hesse, as a "tireless fighter against the criminal use of state power and for humanity and a democratic state under the rule of law."

Paul Arnsberg, journalist, author, historian, and long-time Jewish communal leader, received the plaque of honor of the city of Frankfurt "in recognition of the services he rendered as author of numerous books on the history of the Jews, especially the Jews of Frankfurt."

The Hamburg Senate gave the "Medal for faithful work in the service of the people" to Erna Goldschmidt, long-time business manager of the Jewish Communal Fund of Northwest Germany and a worker for the Jewish Trust Corporation of Hamburg.

Wilhelm Unger, a Cologne journalist, cofounder of the Anglo-German Society in London after the war, and for many years active in the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, received from the Queen of England the Order of the British Empire.

The University of Tübingen awarded the Leopold Lucas prize to journalist and author Schalom ben-Chorin of Jerusalem in recognition of the "major part he has had in Christian-Jewish dialogue."

The French writer Manès Sperber was awarded the George Büchner prize of the German Academy of Language and Literature in Darmstadt, the most significant German literary award.

The City of Dortmund gave the Nelly Sachs prize to the Bulgarian-born writer Elias Canetti, now living in Switzerland and England, as a "literary outsider" who had written "disquieting and challenging works."

Netti Boleslav of Israel, a lyric poet writing in German, was awarded the incentive prize of the city of Minden and of the European authors' association, Die Kogge.

The Jerusalem composer Josef Tal received the 1975 City of Berlin Arts prize.

In February 1976 the Bavarian Catholic Academy awarded its Romano Guardini prize to Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and Professor Shemaryahu Talmon of the Hebrew University for their personal contribution to Christian-Jewish dialogue.

Therese Giehse, one of the leading character actresses of the German stage, died in Munich on March 3, at the age of 77. Professor Ernst Fraenkel, political scientist, died in West Berlin on March 28, at the age of 76.

FRIEDO SACHSER

German Democratic Republic

IN a statement on the "Day of Liberation," May 8, the Jewish communities of the DDR (Deutsche Demokratische Republik) declared that, for the first time in German history, Jews were "fully equal in all fields of communal life"; that the necessary work of the Jewish communities was "made possible and promoted by the generous support of the state." True, it continued, there "have been, and are" problems and differences because of diversity of creeds. However, this did not mean that a mutually fruitful cooperation had not developed between the state and the various religions.

On that anniversary, Prime Minister Horst Sindermann charged that the Federal Republic used the occasion to minimize the crimes of German imperialism, and that it designated the "day of victory over Hitler fascism" as the "day of capitulation." It was, he maintained, the day of the capitulation of "the military forces of German monopoly capital;" but it was the day on which the people were liberated.

In April a monument commemorating the burning of a synagogue in 1938 was dedicated in Dresden. The Association of Jewish Communities published a Jewish calendar for the year 5736.

At the international Leipzig Fair in April, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the second time displayed its products, which, signs announced, came from the "workshops of the sons of the Palestinian martyrs."

In November representatives of the East German government and party met with PLO representatives in East Berlin to discuss increased cooperation in the future. East Berlin authorities assured PLO that East Germany would continue on its basic course of solidarity with the Palestinian people in their fight for national rights.

At the end of discussions held in May in East Berlin between the DDR and an official Iraqi delegation, a joint communiqué called for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied areas which, together with a guarantee of self-determination for the Palestinians, was the only basis for a just and lasting peace.

In July the East Berlin régime and the Communist party severely criticized Prime Minister Rabin's visit to the Federal Republic and West Berlin. This visit, they said, contributed to the "further consolidation of the special relationship between Israel and the German Federal Republic." It was, above all, *Neues Deutschland*, the central organ of the Socialist Unity party (SED), maintained, "a disruptive maneuver against détente." On the one hand, Bonn continued to give "massive support to a state which, for years, has disregarded and violated the UN Security Council

resolutions on the Middle East"; on the other, "Bonn uses the representative of the aggressor state to mount an attack on the process of détente in Europe."

Junge Welt, official organ of the Free German Youth of the DDR, reported that, between 1945 and 1974, 12,800 persons were brought before the courts of the DDR on charges of Nazi crimes; that in the first five years alone, judgments were passed on 12,147 of them.

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