

Central Europe

Federal Republic of Germany

Domestic Affairs

FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY 1978 brought stabilization on the domestic political front and a perceptible, though slight, economic upturn. In an address at the end of the year, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said he felt gratified, because "peace has been preserved, and freedom and internal order in our country have been strengthened further." He looked confidently to the future, since "the soil has been prepared for favorable political and economic development."

The economic situation of West Germany's citizens improved during 1978. While the inflation rate rose by an average 2.6 per cent, the gross income of employed persons increased by about 5.5 per cent. The gross national product grew by 3.4 per cent, as against 2.6 per cent the year before. Average unemployment for the year was down to 4.3 per cent, from 4.5 per cent in 1977.

On March 5 communal elections took place in Bavaria and Schleswig-Holstein. The radical right National Democratic party (NDP) lost five of its seven seats and retained representation in only two communal bodies. On June 4 Lower Saxony elected a new state legislature. Also on June 4 the city-state of Hamburg voted for its Assembly (city parliament). On October 15 new state legislatures were elected in Hesse and Bavaria.

In August the prime minister of the state of Baden-Württemberg, Hans Filbinger, resigned his office after considerable public discussion of his activities during the Nazi era. Filbinger had been a judge in the Navy during the Nazi years and in this capacity had meted out several death sentences. He defended himself with lawsuits and claims of having actively resisted the Nazis. However, as the facts of the case came to the fore, his situation became untenable and he was persuaded by his party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), to resign.

Extremism

At the end of 1978 the Federal Ministry of the Interior stated that neither left-wing nor right-wing extremist organizations endangered the fundamental democratic character of the Federal Republic.

Neo-Nazi splinter groups and, in some instances, NPD maintained contact with like-minded groups abroad, particularly in Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Switzerland, Spain, and the United States. The NSDAP Foreign Organization, headed by Gary Lauck, an American, supplied Nazi and antisemitic propaganda material for the right-radical scene in the Federal Republic. From other countries, too, plentiful materials arrived in Germany: from Italy, medals commemorating Hitler; from Japan and England, toys with Nazi symbols; from Spain, offset reprints of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*; from Great Britain, T-shirts with swastikas.

Some of the most active neo-Nazi groups during 1978 were the Deutsche Bürgerinitiative (German Citizens' Initiative), led by Manfred Roeder, who early in the year fled to South America to escape the German courts; the Reichsleitung der NSDAP (Leadership Corps of the NSDAP), headed by Wilhelm Wübbels, which published several pamphlets and held pro-Nazi meetings; and the Bürger- und Bauerninitiative (Citizens' and Farmers' Initiative) under Thies Christophersen, which disseminated Nazi ideas through literature and at various events. Erwin Schönborn's Kampfbund Deutscher Soldaten (German Soldiers' Combat League) campaigned against further prosecution of Nazi criminals, and denounced war crime "legends", particularly the "gas chamber lie"; in November Schönborn was fined DM 1,200 for libeling a Bundeswehr general. Henry Beier's Kampfgruppe Grossdeutschland (Greater Germany Combat Group) disseminated Nazi propaganda. The Aktionsfront Nationaler Sozialisten (National Socialists' Action Front), led by a former Bundeswehr lieutenant, 23-year-old Michael Kühnen, was involved in acts of violence; during November Kühnen was sentenced to six months' detention for engaging in pro-Nazi propaganda. Werner Braun's Deutsch-Völkische Gemeinschaft (German Racial Community) distributed pro-Nazi pamphlets; in October Braun, who had called for the "extermination of Zionism," was sentenced to a year's detention and fined DM 14,000.

Also in the public eye were the Deutsche Volkunion (German People's Union) and the National-Freiheitliche Rechte (National Liberal Right Wing), both headed by Dr. Gerhard Frey, an ultra-rightist publisher in Munich, who owned the weekly *Deutsche National-Zeitung*, the largest right-radical publication. Through his organizations, Frey had thousands of activists at his disposal; through his various newspapers he won a following in the hundreds of thousands. The *Deutsche National-Zeitung* claimed that Jews in the Federal Republic were treated "like a class with superior rights." Offenses by Jews were not prosecuted by the German courts, the paper asserted, whereas the German people were kept "forever in debt servitude." The German taxpayer was said to "serve as a milk cow for the Jewish State, to be milked at will." The newspaper also scored what it described as the continued tormenting of "so-called Nazi culprits" in "mammoth trials."

All of the neo-Nazi groups glorified Nazism, whitewashed or denied Nazi crimes, and fomented anti-Jewish sentiment; their aim was to restore a Nazi dictatorship in Germany. The report of the Office for the Defense of the Federal Constitution

for 1977 had emphasized that, to a far greater extent than in earlier years, neo-Nazi groups and individuals had gained attention through swastika daubings, desecration of Jewish cemeteries, and the distribution of propaganda. These tendencies continued during 1978. At the end of the year, a report by the German security agencies voiced concern that the arms and explosives found in the possession of radical rightists might signal a new readiness to resort to armed force on the model of ultra-left terrorism. Juveniles were said to predominate among the militant elements. At the end of the year, the Pressedienst Demokratische Initiative (Press Service of the Democratic Initiative), a federation of writers and journalists, warned against trivializing the significance of neo-Nazi youth organizations. While such groups often were small in numbers, they displayed increasing aggressiveness toward Jews and Israel. Government agencies were accused of negligence and excessive tolerance in combatting this development.

The government repeatedly underscored its determination to use the most stringent legal means against militant ultra-right groups. In this connection the government also voiced disapproval of the "commercialization of the Hitler era" through books, recordings, and toys, with the explicit exception of publications seeking seriously to come to grips with the Nazi period. Between January 1975 and July 1978, some 750 criminal proceedings and investigations were conducted in the Federal Republic relating to the dissemination of neo-Nazi propaganda and Nazi symbols. The courts, however, imposed prison sentences in only 16 cases, and in only two of these did the defendants serve their full sentences—15 months each. Fines were imposed in 18 instances.

Neo-Nazi activities, particularly daubings and sticker campaigns, were reported in many locations during 1978. At Fürth in Franconia a citizens' committee was formed to curb the distribution of neo-Nazi publications, to provide young people with better information about the Nazi period, and to activate the public against ultra-right tendencies. At Münster in Westphalia, following numerous neo-Nazi and antisemitic daubing incidents, 146 Protestant churchmen declared their solidarity with the Jewish community. The minister of culture, education, and religious affairs in the state of Lower Saxony, Werner Remmers, suspended Karl-Heinz Kausch, a high-school principal in Hannoversch-Münden, for disseminating pro-Nazi and anti-Jewish ideas among students and others. Disciplinary measures were also ordered against two teachers at the school.

In Hamburg during July Wolf-Dieter Eckart, an editor of ultra-rightist publications, was sentenced to two years in prison for spreading pro-Nazi and antisemitic propaganda. In November in Lüneburg four German members of the NSDAP Foreign Organization, Oliver Schreiber, Volker Heidel, Joachim Nowald, and Andreas Kirchmann, were convicted of racial incitement and dissemination of Nazi propaganda and given prison sentences ranging from two days to 21 months. In Koblenz during July Gunnar Pahl, a member of the same group, was sentenced to six months. In Brunswick a bomb was found in the home of a member of the NSDAP Foreign Organization. Toward the end of the year a court in Celle was

preparing to try six neo-Nazis accused of several robberies to obtain arms and money for planned terrorist actions; they were Michael Kühnen, Uwe Rohwer, Manfred Böm, Lothar-Harald Schulte, Lutz Wegener and Klaus Dieter Puls.

The activities of NPD posed considerable problems for police and security agencies. While a decision handed down by the administrative court of the state of Baden-Württemberg in April 1978 ruled that NPD was not to be regarded as subversive of the constitution, the federal government did view it as that. The Nazi regime was persistently glorified in the group's pronouncements. In several cities NPD demonstrations led to bloody clashes between police and counter-demonstrators, mainly leftists. In most such episodes the police figured as the protectors of the officially permitted NPD events.

Evidence of radical para-fascist thinking among segments of the younger generation was not limited to the adherents of neo-Nazi youth organizations or other ultra-rightist groups. For many young people the Nazi era had lost both its horror and its meaning for the present and future—either because the young people were uninformed or because they did not want to be informed, preferring to concern themselves with their own present-day problems. Though basically apolitical, young people became receptive to certain peculiar features of the Nazi past, which could serve as signs of rebellion against the authority of adults or the state. The swastika, Nazi uniforms, and even the idea of a "strong man" in the mold of Hitler, fascinated a good many young people, and held a symbolic meaning for them that was far removed from historical reality but helped satisfy their formless urge toward what was new and different. In this para-fascist thinking there also was room for Nazi-like defamation of, and threats against, Jews.

Left-wing extremism, like that of the right, did not represent a serious threat to the country, the federal government emphasized—adding, however, that ultra-leftist tendencies and activities called for careful watching and effective counteraction. The largest left-wing radical organization, the German Communist party (DKP), had 42,000 members in 1977, according to the Office for the Defense of the Federal Constitution. The New Left, which did not follow the Moscow line, continued to be represented primarily by the Communist League of West Germany (KBW), which reportedly had about 2,500 members in 1977. Late that year 2,281 left-wing extremists were reported to be employed in the civil service. During 1977 ultra-left terrorist acts had accounted for nine deaths in West Germany; in 1978 the number of such acts decreased. During the first half of the year 19 persons suspected of terrorist activities were arrested; 37 others remained on the "wanted" list.

Several German ultra-leftist terrorists were convicted by German or foreign courts during 1978. In September in Düsseldorf Willy Peter Stoll, a terrorist, was shot to death by police, as was a presumed terrorist, Michael Knoll, in Dortmund during the same month. In November two unidentified German terrorists shot and killed two Dutch border guards. In May Yugoslav authorities arrested four Germans suspected of being terrorists, who were released at the end of the year.

According to the Office for the Defense of the Federal Constitution, 187 foreign extremist organizations, leftist and rightist, existed in the Federal Republic during 1977, with about 57,800 members in all. Ultra-leftists were in the majority: 53 of the groups were orthodox Communist in orientation, and 99 belonged to the New Left. Twenty-four of all the groups worked underground and were committed to the use of force as a means of achieving their political aims. In June 1978 the federal administrative court in Berlin reaffirmed the bans on the General Union of Palestinian Students and the General Union of Palestinian Workers, originally decreed by the Ministry of the Interior in 1972, on the grounds that the organizations endangered the internal security of the Federal Republic. According to the court, proven aspects of their activities justified the assumption that, given certain opportunities, they would actively aid or abet the perpetrators of terrorist plots.

Antisemitism

As in previous years, antisemitic incidents in West Germany were linked, in most cases, to neo-Nazi episodes and developments. The culprits were usually members of ultra-right groups or Nazi-minded loners. Groups like Gary Lauck's NSDAP Foreign Organization and Erwin Schönborn's German Soldiers' Combat League played a prominent role in such events. Other groups, such as those associated with Gerhard Frey, also engaged in anti-Jewish and anti-Israel agitation, and made their influence felt among a following much larger than that of other ultra-rightist splinter groups.

Members of the NSDAP Foreign Organization were responsible for the daubing of antisemitic slogans at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp memorial during May. In November a 17-year-old student affiliated with the youth organization of NPD confessed having defaced the synagogue in Osnabrück with swastikas, the Star of David, and the words "Death to the Jews." In connection with the commemorations of the Crystal Night pogrom of 1938, in November, antisemitic daubings appeared in a number of places. In the course of the year Jewish cemeteries were desecrated in Hagenbach, Willmars-Neustädles, Karlstadt, Frankfurt, and Neckarsulm. In October unidentified persons bombed the offices of the West Berlin Jewish community as well as an Israeli-owned store there. One of the bombs was defused in time; the other caused property damage.

Foreign Relations

The Federal Republic continued to play a major role among free Western nations during 1978. It sought to contribute constructively to the political and economic consolidation of the European countries, particularly within the framework of the European Economic Community, but also within the Western alliance. In July the heads of state of seven important industrial nations—Canada, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the United States, and West Germany—met in Bonn to work out

measures for stimulating economic growth and curbing inflation. President Carter combined his stay in Bonn with a four-day official visit to the Federal Republic. Earlier, in May, the Soviet party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev and Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain had visited the country.

In September the Syrian head of state, Hafez al-Assad, came to Bonn. On this occasion German political figures stressed their unconditional support for the peace initiative of the president of Egypt, Anwar al-Sadat, and for Egypt's and Israel's efforts to secure a peace treaty. At a reception for President Assad, West German President Walter Scheel expressly distanced himself from the views of his guest, noting that Syria played a key role in the Middle East conflict and bore great responsibility for peace. The president stated:

We Germans and Europeans, having an immediate interest in Middle East peace, seek to support any efforts which, in our opinion, might make a peaceful solution possible or might make it easier to attain . . . The attitude of the Nine [EEC] toward the efforts to resolve the Middle East conflict justly and durably through negotiations is well-known. This attitude is based on the principles of the declaration of June 29, 1977. Furthermore, we are convinced that these principles, which rest on Resolution 242 of the United Nations Security Council, afford a basis for peace in the Middle East—that the Arabs' territorial rights and Israel's need for security can be reconciled.

Like President Scheel, other German political leaders made it clear that Bonn was not seeking to steer a course of its own in Middle East affairs, but meant to pursue a common Middle East policy with the other member states of EEC. Stress was laid on Bonn's principle of evenhandedness toward Israel and the Arab states. However, critical comments directed toward Jerusalem were repeatedly heard in Bonn in regard to Israel's settlement policy and Israeli military intervention in Lebanon. In March SPD politicians described the Israeli incursion into Lebanon, in the wake of Palestinian terrorist acts, as a "disproportionate action" and as "unrestrained aggression." Klaus Thüsing, an SPD deputy in the Bundestag, declared that with actions like that in Lebanon, Israeli policy was maneuvering itself "into a corner in which it can hardly escape the reproach of having taken over the law of the jungle from the other side."

The West German mass media, too, became increasingly critical of Israel during the year, charging it with insufficient readiness to compromise. The sympathy of the press clearly lay with the Egyptian president and his policies. When the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin, the award to the latter was criticized, with commentators maintaining that the Israeli head of government had yet to prove himself worthy of this distinction.

In June, when Fahd ibn Abdel Aziz, the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince, visited Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt emphasized that the posture of his government was determined by the UN's Resolution 242 and EEC's declaration of June 1977. The West German position, he said, affirmed Israel's right to exist within secure

boundaries, but also recognized the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and their right to organize their own state. Later in the year the federal government stressed that it welcomed the results of the Camp David summit talks, and in this context voiced particular appreciation for the efforts of the U.S. government in achieving progress on the road toward a Middle East peace.

During a visit by the Sudanese president, Gaafar al-Numeiry, in October, Chancellor Schmidt voiced the hope that after Camp David the other parties to the conflict would also find themselves able to take part in the negotiating process, so as to bring the goal of a comprehensive peace settlement within reach. On the occasion of a state visit by King Hussein of Jordan, in November, President Scheel expressed the opinion that the peace talks based on the Camp David summit were a step in the right direction. In this process, he said, the decisive issue would be how to reconcile Israel's right to exist with the legitimate rights of the Palestinians—including, in Bonn's view, the right to self-determination.

In August the federal government stressed its firm determination to continue its policy of rejecting racism and race discrimination, in concert with its partners in the European Economic Community. As to the UN's World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in Geneva, the government regretted that the meeting had developed in a way that forbade the members of EEC to continue as participants; they could not be party to a final declaration accusing Israel of racial discrimination. The same accusation had prompted the federal government, in 1975, to vote against a General Assembly resolution equating Zionism and racism.

Relations with Israel

Despite criticism of Israel's foreign policy by West German political figures, and especially by the mass media, German-Israeli relationships in various areas, such as business, culture, tourism, and sports, continued to develop and consolidate during the year. Some 132,000 German tourists, a record number, visited Israel. Among tourists from European countries, West Germans for the first time constituted the largest number. Within two years the number of German visitors to Israel had more than doubled.

In April the Israeli ambassador in Bonn, Yohanan Meroz, took issue with news reports claiming that German-Israeli relations were being impaired by the allegedly anti-German attitude of the Israeli head of government. The ambassador acknowledged that Prime Minister Begin, having lost his entire family in the German extermination camps of Eastern Europe, carried a heritage of dreadful memories with him. He stated, however, that the formal, official relations between the Federal Republic and Israel were not affected by this in any way.

In July the Institute for Public Opinion Research in Allensbach published the results of a poll concerning Israel. Asked about their personal sympathies, 44 per cent of the respondents said they favored Israel (in 1970 the figure had been 46 per

cent, in 1974, 50 per cent); 7 per cent sided with the Arabs; the rest were undecided. Forty per cent thought Israel would be able to hold her own vis-à-vis the Arabs over the long term; 20 per cent thought the Arabs would prove stronger, and 40 per cent gave no concrete answer. Late in 1974 only 26 per cent of respondents had thought Israel had a chance of surviving.

In May on the 30th anniversary of the founding of Israel, Chancellor Schmidt said in a telegram to Prime Minister Begin: "I am sure we will jointly succeed in extending and strengthening the relations between our two states further, on the basis of what has already been achieved." On the same occasion, Foreign Minister Genscher wrote to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan: "The public in the Federal Republic of Germany has been observing with admiration the constructive accomplishments of the people of Israel since the founding of the State. I am happy that we have jointly succeeded in shaping a close and mutually trusting relationship between our nations and governments. Against the background of a tragic past, we have determinedly directed our gaze to the future."

Noted public figures attended a commemorative meeting held in Cologne by the Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft (German-Israeli Society) to mark the 30th anniversary of Israel. The speakers were Ambassador Meroz; the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek; and Klaus von Dohnanyi, deputy minister in the West German Foreign Ministry. The latter said the federal government's chief objective in the Middle East was to promote developments that would reduce the distrust between Israel and her Arab neighbors and would help foster lasting peaceful relations between them. Bonn, he said, could not let itself be forced to accept the proposition that championship of Israel's existence was incompatible with friendly relations with the Arab countries. History, he stated, had once more given the Germans an opportunity to work for peace with the people of Israel.

In August Chancellor Schmidt, congratulating Prime Minister Begin on his 65th birthday, voiced the hope that Begin's efforts toward a solution of the Middle East conflict would succeed in bringing the hoped-for peace and with it a secure, happy future to the Israeli people and its neighbors. On Rosh Ha-shanah 5739 Schmidt stated in a telegram to Begin: "You may look back with pride and satisfaction on what you have accomplished in the year now ending. For the first time in more than 30 years, peace in the Middle East has come closer. I hope with you that it will prove possible to remove the remaining obstacles and to bring the desired just and durable peace to Israel and her neighboring nations." Apropos of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize, Schmidt wired Begin: "The courageous policy initiated by you and President Sadat thus obtains the recognition it deserves. . . . We all hope in our hearts that there will be no new obstacles to the negotiations. May I assure you of my support." On Golda Meir's death in December, Schmidt telegraphed to Begin: "Golda Meir won influence and significance for your country throughout the world. Her political effectiveness radiated far beyond the borders of Israel. No one will forget the first visit of a German Chancellor to Israel, in June 1973, when Mrs. Meir was host to Willy Brandt. That encounter has had a fruitful effect on the relations

between Germany and Israel—a matter of high significance for the Federal Republic.”

In February the Israeli opposition leader, Shimon Peres, conferred with Social Democratic politicians in Bonn. In June Moshe Meron, vice president of the Knesset, was received in Bonn. Also in June Foreign Minister Genscher visited Jerusalem. The first member of a West German government to be received by Prime Minister Begin, he conferred with Israeli political leaders and paid a visit to Yad Vashem. In August Israel's minister of finance, Simcha Ehrlich, came to Bonn for discussions. During October an SPD delegation headed by Herbert Wehner visited Israel. Many other representatives of governing and opposition parties, as well as communal officials and labor leaders from the two nations, also met for discussions in West Germany and Israel.

One major topic of discussion between Israeli and German representatives was the problem of the German statute of limitations for Nazi crimes. Israeli spokesmen repeatedly called on the Bundestag to suspend the statute of limitations and asked that proceedings against Nazi culprits, such as the Majdanek trial in Düsseldorf, be expedited as much as possible.

In May CDU Bundestag deputy Erik Blumenfeld, speaking as president of the German-Israeli Society, asked that the federal government take all possible measures to render harmless the Arab terrorist groups in the country and to curb their sympathizers. Among the latter he counted some 300 demonstrators who during the Israel Independence Day celebrations held in Berlin in May had agitated against the Jewish State and demanded recognition of the PLO by the Bonn government. In December a statement adopted by the German-Israeli Society declared: “Resolutions frequently passed by United Nations and UNESCO bodies in condemnation of Israel are destructive and a hindrance to peace. The task of the United Nations and its affiliated organizations is to serve human rights and peace among nations, not to perpetuate hatred and discrimination.”

The chairman of Israel's Council for Youth Exchanges, Adi Amoraï, noted on a visit to Bonn in August that youth exchanges between Germany and Israel had increased considerably in the past two years. Some 2,000 young Israelis were now visiting the Federal Republic each year, he said, while twice that many young Germans were going to Israel. As in previous years, a number of young Germans volunteered to serve in various social projects in Israel under the auspices of a German church organization, Aktion Sühnezeichen/Friedensdienste (Operation Atonement/Services for Peace). In 1978 the organization marked its 20th year. During April two members of the group were killed in the course of an attack by Palestinian terrorists in Nablus; several others were wounded. Operation Atonement declared that, despite the attack, it would continue to serve the causes of reconciliation with Israel and of better Jewish-Arab relations.

Yad Vashem again awarded the honorific title “Righteous Among the Peoples” to several Germans who during the Nazi years had aided persecuted Jews: Gertrude

Kochanowski, Dorothee Heuer, Albert Heuer, Erika Patzschke, Herbert Patzschke, Elizabeth Auer, Grete Daene, and Wilhelm Daene.

In February the city of Munich presented the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with a donation of DM 50,000 toward the establishment of professorships in German language and literature. In April the Volkswagenwerk Foundation of Hanover provided approximately DM 900,000 toward the creation and financing of a department of German studies at the Hebrew University. In December the European Committee of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth met in Bonn. The Institute has for many years cooperated closely with German scientists and scientific institutions and has received financial support from the latter.

Restitution

Discussions about a final settlement of restitution payments for Nazi injustices, primarily to satisfy claims in hardship cases, still failed to lead to a tangible result during 1978. However, in November the SPD delegation in the Bundestag unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a "Restitution Foundation." It should be set up by the federal government, the resolution stated, to satisfy justified claims which could not be dealt with in the framework of existing laws. "All past efforts notwithstanding, we still are duty-bound to do whatever is possible," the SPD parliamentarians stressed.

Nazi Trials

The approach of the effective date of the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes, set by law for the end of 1979, triggered vigorous public discussion during 1978, particularly in the mass media and within the political parties. Opinions on whether the statute should take effect as scheduled remained divided, with the parties and the public about evenly split. But whereas early in the year efforts to suspend the statute seemed to have no chance of success in the Bundestag, events took a turn during the late fall, when SPD decided to introduce a bill providing for a general suspension with respect to all kinds of murder. The initiative came from the leader of the SPD group in the Bundestag, Herbert Wehner, himself a victim of Nazi persecution. Toward the end of the year some members of the CDU opposition in the Bundestag also announced that they would vote for the proposed suspension. However, a majority of the CDU and CSU deputies—including their leader, Helmut Kohl—persisted in the view that the statute of limitations should be retained and that prosecution of Nazi crimes should be finally concluded. Similarly, a majority of FDP, whose members belonged to the governing coalition, maintained their opposition to extending or suspending the statute; this was also the position of the party leader, Foreign Minister Genscher. However, by the end of the year, even some FDP deputies indicated a possible change of mind. There appeared to be a real chance of a parliamentary majority favoring suspension of the statute with respect

to murder. Numerous democratic organizations, as well as the Jewish community, publicly and emphatically endorsed suspension of the statute.

The head of the Central Office for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Ludwigsburg, Dr. Adalbert Rückerl, stated in December that, regardless of the discussions about the statute of limitations and the final settlement of this matter, there was a real possibility of suspects still being convicted after 1980. Whether or not the statute took effect, there would be no visible change in the way Nazi trials were conducted after 1979, he said; proceedings concerning thousands of suspects had been interrupted, so that it remained possible to prosecute them beyond 1980. In this connection, however, Rückerl again pointed out the difficulties of conducting prosecutions more than 30 years after the end of the Third Reich. Almost all the material received by the Central Office during the past six years concerned only crimes with relatively few victims and correspondingly few participants and witnesses, he stated; and in such cases, fact-finding was particularly difficult. Given the most favorable circumstances today, four or five years elapsed from the time a suspect became known to the Central Office until a verdict was handed down.

As of the end of the year, proceedings against nearly 4,000 Nazi suspects were still pending before West German courts. In general the duration of pre-trial investigations and trials had greatly increased, while the percentage of convictions had markedly declined. The overall duration of such proceedings averaged 16.8 years by 1977, up from 3.6 years in 1962. Pre-trial investigations of Nazi crimes, which around 1969 lasted no more than five years in a given case, had been taking up to 13 years in cases coming before the courts since 1975. Between 1945 and 1964, 9.9 per cent of defendants in Nazi trials were convicted; in the years from 1965 to 1976, the rate was only 1.5 per cent. At the end of 1978 the Central Office in Ludwigsburg was still engaged in about 190 preliminary investigations, involving an unknown number of suspects.

By January 1, 1978 a total of 84,403 individuals had been investigated in connection with Nazi crimes, the government stated. Up to that date, 6,432 had been convicted and sentenced—14 of them to death, 164 to life imprisonment. (All of these figures refer to the territory of the present Federal Republic.) Because of such factors as death, acquittal, or quashing of the proceedings, 74,263 persons remained unpunished. The government had no precise information about convictions of Germans for Nazi crimes by foreign courts. According to estimates, the Soviet Union convicted about 24,000 Germans; Poland, 16,000; Austria, 13,000; the German Democratic Republic, 12,000; France, 1,000; other Western powers, 5,000.

The prosecutor's office in Munich reported in December that it still had 32 investigations of Nazi crimes pending. However, the office said, the difficulties of establishing proof had increased so much between 1973 and 1977 that not a single indictment could be brought during that period. In 1978 there had been two indictments. The agency further stated that new charges of Nazi crimes kept arriving from Eastern bloc countries. Of late, the Soviet Union and Poland had also forwarded

actual testimony, some of it recorded as much as ten years earlier by authorities in those countries.

Heinz Eyrich, the minister of justice in the state of Baden-Württemberg, stated in December that the chances of putting a newly discovered Nazi criminal in the dock and convicting him were constantly growing slimmer. Difficulties in conducting investigations and establishing proof contributed to this problem, the minister said, and so did the age of the accused. In Baden-Württemberg, he noted, only a single indictment could be brought during the past five years, and this proceeding had to be abandoned, because the 73-year-old defendant's state of health made him unfit for trial.

Saarbrücken: In July Friedrich Wilhelm Heinen, a former *SS* member, was sentenced to lifetime detention for the murder of Jews.

Karlsruhe: In March Wilhelm Eickhoff, a former sergeant in the *SS*, was sentenced on appeal to lifetime imprisonment for murdering Jews in White Ruthenia.

Limburg: In May Richard Hospodarsch, a one-time chief sergeant in the *SS*, was sentenced to seven years' detention for aiding in the murder of Jews in Poland.

Hanover: In April a former *SS* chief sergeant, Friedrich Rathje, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, subject to probation, for aiding in the murder of 900 Jews in Poland. In September a one-time inmate and *kapo* in the Majdanek concentration camp, Karl Johann Galka, was put on trial on charges of murder. The trial of Heinrich Niemeier, a former *SS* member accused of murdering inmates in Auschwitz, began in October.

Stuttgart: In October a retrial was begun in the case of Richard Pal, a former *SS* member accused of murdering Jews in Poland.

Bielefeld: In September Wilhelm Westerheide and Johanne Zelle were put on trial for murdering Jews in western Russia.

Bochum: In September Theodor Börsch, Ernst Abraham, Johann Förster, Josef Lengl, Georg Hasenkamp, and one other former member of the Security Police went on trial for mass murder of Jews in White Ruthenia. By the end of the year proceedings against three of the defendants had been abandoned on the grounds that they were unfit to stand trial.

Cologne: In July the prosecutor's office indicted Kurt Lischka, formerly an *SS* lieutenant-colonel, for aiding in the murder of thousands of French Jews. In September Walter Knop, a former *SS* master sergeant, went on trial for murdering concentration camp inmates. In November court proceedings were begun against two former first lieutenants in the *SS*, Martin Patz and Karl Mising, for murdering prison inmates in Warsaw.

Düsseldorf: The trial of 14 former *SS* guards at the Majdanek death camp entered its fourth year in November. During December proceedings against one of the defendants, August Wilhelm Reinartz, were abandoned because of his unfitness to stand trial. In September the treatment of Jewish witnesses at the trial drew criticism from Professor Hans Maier, the president of the Zentralkomitee der Deutschen Katholiken (Central Committee of German Catholics). He found it appalling that

witnesses who had suffered in concentration camps were sometimes examined in a way which placed a heavy psychological burden on them and exceeded the limits of decency. He voiced regret that witnesses had been insulted, that the suffering and death of camp inmates had been minimized, and that the defendants and their attorneys had tried again and again to represent as pure fiction the facts about the Nazi annihilation policy—facts proven a thousand times over.

Lübeck: In September Arvids Bajars, a former member of the Latvian police, was put on trial for shooting Jews and Latvians. After six days, the proceedings were indefinitely suspended on the grounds that the defendant was not fit to stand trial.

Dortmund: In December the prosecutor's office indicted a Dutchman, Siert Bruins, also known as Siegfried Bruns, for murdering Jews in the Netherlands. He had been found and arrested during July in Hagen, where he had lived incognito. Before long, he was released on bail, and extradition to the Netherlands was denied.

Stade: In December Erich Scharfetter, a former medical orderly in the Waffen-SS, went on trial for murdering Jewish concentration camp inmates.

Aschaffenburg: The trial of former SS members Hans Olejak and Ewald Pansegrau for murder of Jews in a sub-camp at Auschwitz, begun in September 1977, continued. In October 1978 the prosecutor's office reported that Jewish witnesses had been pressured, probably by ultra-rightists, to give false testimony exculpating the defendants.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography

On January 1, 1978 the 66 Jewish communities in the Federal Republic and in West Berlin had 27,316 registered members: 13,031 females and 14,285 males. Their average age was 44.4 years. Jews in the Federal Republic and West Berlin who were not members of a community were estimated to number 10,000 to 15,000. As of January 1, 1979, the number of registered members was 27,295: 13,063 women and 14,232 men, with an average age of 44.5 years. During 1978, 704 immigrants and 354 emigrants were recorded, as were 93 births and 435 deaths; there were 50 converts to Judaism.

Communal Activities

In April representatives of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland (Central Council of Jews in Germany) met in Bonn with SPD leaders, chiefly to discuss ways of dealing with the Nazi past in school curricula, with neo-Nazi and antisemitic manifestations in West Germany, and with political radicalism of the right and left. Both sides stressed their determination to help insure that the schools place greater emphasis on the Third Reich and its historical significance. The same point was

made at a meeting held in Karlsruhe during April between Central Council representatives and a delegation from the Union of Teachers and Scholars, which represents most of the teachers in West Germany. A joint declaration emphasized that informing youth about the events of the Nazi era, particularly the persecution and killing of Jews, was essential to the future of German democracy. The Union and the Central Council agreed to request the ministers of culture, education, and religious affairs in the various states to develop a comprehensive curriculum about the evils of the Third Reich, so as to motivate young people to confront the events of the past.

In February the chairman of the Central Council's board, Werner Nachmann, called on West Germany's responsible political forces to proceed more sharply against neo-Nazi tendencies. While it was a mistake to overestimate the significance of right-wing extremism, he said, it had to be fought and eliminated where it appeared. In April Nachmann was a member of a delegation of the World Jewish Congress that visited Poland on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising and the opening of a Jewish museum in Auschwitz. In September he was elected a vice president of WJC's European section. In June he accompanied Foreign Minister Genscher on a visit to Israel. In the same month he protested to the German Football League about the hospitality that had been extended to the former Nazi Luftwaffe colonel and neo-Nazi propagandist Hans-Ulrich Rudel during the world championship games in Argentina.

In February the president of the Bundestag, Dr. Karl Carstens, attended a meeting of the Central Council's board of directors held at Karlsruhe, and visited the Jewish community in that city. In September West German President Walter Scheel paid a visit to the Berlin community. He stated in an address that there were few other cities where, over the centuries, Jews had contributed so much to European culture. In November representatives of the SPD faction in the Bundestag visited the Berlin Jewish community. In June the community's president, Heinz Galinski, scored "the German Democratic Republic's wholly one-sided, hostile attitude toward Israel." Commenting on an East Berlin visit by Yasir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Galinski noted that East German arms shipments to the PLO were discussed for the first time on this occasion—a move he characterized as morally reprehensible. As an Auschwitz survivor he felt duty-bound, he said, to ask the East German government whether it did not realize that the Democratic Republic, being a German state, had the same moral obligations toward Israel as did the Federal Republic.

All Jewish communities held special commemorative gatherings and services to mark the 35th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, as well as the 40th anniversary of the Crystal Night in November.

A new Jewish community was founded during September in Giessen, in the state of Hesse. A new synagogue was consecrated during March in the old-age center of the Frankfurt Jewish community. In October the Würzburg community joined with the Rabbinerkonferenz in der Bundesrepublik (Conference of Rabbis in the Federal

Republic) in a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the death of Seligmann Baer Bamberger, the famous "Würzburg Rav," who in 1864 founded the Jewish teachers' training college in that city. In June the Zionistische Organisation in Deutschland (Zionist Organization in Germany) elected Ernst Simons as its new president, and bade farewell to Shmuel Ras, who returned to Israel after three years as the organization's secretary general. Among the many events scheduled by B'nai B'rith, the outstanding one was a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador in Bonn, Omar Sirry, who explained Egypt's peace initiative.

Youth

On May 14 at Sobernheim the Bund Jüdischer Jugend (League of Jewish Youth) was created as the new top-level organization of all committed young Jews in West Germany between the ages of 16 and 35; Benno Reicher was elected chairman. The aim of the League was to promote Jewish awareness and activism. Later in the year the group organized seminars on current Jewish problems, and social gatherings.

A youth conclave focusing on "The Third Reich, the Present Day and Ourselves" was convened by the Central Council of Jews in Germany during November, in Dortmund. About one hundred young Jews attended. Noted German politicians and representatives of the three youth organizations affiliated with political parties in the Bundestag served as speakers and discussion partners, together with rabbis, German and foreign scholars, and leaders of Jewish organizations in the country.

The Bundesverband Jüdischer Studenten in Deutschland (Federal Association of Jewish Students in Germany) cooperated with the National Union of Israel Students in organizing a seminar, held in Jerusalem during September. The purpose of the seminar was to broaden the participants' knowledge of Israel and the Middle East, mainly in view of the fact that Jewish students in Germany were becoming increasingly involved in discussions with Palestinians and with leftist or anti-Jewish students. Thirty Jewish students from West Germany and West Berlin participated. The Association also organized seminars in West Germany and in collaboration with foreign Jewish student groups, in London and Vienna. Among the topics discussed were the Middle East, religious questions, neo-Nazi and antisemitic tendencies, and youth problems. At a delegates' conference in Munich during December, it was noted that the organization had intensified its contacts with the Central Council of Jews in Germany and other Jewish organizations, and had established ties with the Conference of Rabbis. Contacts were also made with the major non-Jewish student organizations in the country. In all, about 500 Jewish students took part in the Association's activities.

With all local affiliates participating, Makkabi Deutschland (Maccabiah Germany), the umbrella organization of all Jewish sports groups in the country, held its general convention in Frankfurt during June; Harry Scharenberg of Düsseldorf was elected president. Maccabiah's European championship soccer games took place in Duisburg during June. Players from five countries—Belgium, Denmark,

Great Britain, Israel, and West Germany—took part; Israel was the winner. In November in Frankfurt, Maccabiah Germany hosted a convention of the European Maccabiah Confederation, marking the 80th year of the Jewish sports movement in Germany and the 30th year of the State of Israel. Participants included representatives of the Maccabi World Union, headquartered in Israel, and of the European Maccabiah movement.

Christian-Jewish Cooperation

The 40th anniversary of Crystal Night was the central focus of attention in terms of Christian-Jewish relations. Commemorative gatherings, silent marches, radio and television programs, as well as religious services, were the ways in which the West German population marked the event. A declaration by President Walter Scheel stated:

After November 9, 1938, few Germans had the courage to face the consequences of the pogrom. But we today, being able to see the larger contexts, must not evade the truth, even where it is distressing and shameful. The wrong we did to others fell dreadfully back on us: the outrage of 1938 ended in the defeat of 1945. Our country is committed to justice and peace, and so, for the sake of our own future, we must not forget the November days of 1938. This we owe the Jewish people; we owe it to the world and we owe it to ourselves.

The president of the Bundestag, Karl Carstens, pleaded before that body that the events of 1938 not be erased from memory and that the coming generation be informed about them. "Our Jewish fellow citizens," he said, "must be able to count on us to curb any revival of antisemitism in Germany, decisively and without exception." In Munich the Bavarian CSU asserted that the Federal Republic in the years after the war had sought "with heart and hand" to atone for the Nazi crimes, insofar as it was possible to do so. Erhard Eppler, a leader of SPD, emphasized that the happenings of those days stood as a warning for the living. He added that a primitive kind of antisemitism still existed and that it had to be dealt with rigorously. Similar views were expressed by the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany, the German Conference of Bishops, the Alliance of Christian Churches, and other religious bodies.

The Conference of State Ministers of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs, the top education agency in the Federal Republic, called on all school principals to see that the Nazi crimes, as well as Nazi ideology and its sources, were appropriately presented to pupils of all age groups. This measure took into account the complaints of Jewish and democratic groups that German youth lacked adequate knowledge of Nazism. The Conference of State Ministers stressed that schools today must "actively counteract the uncritical acceptance of portrayals that whitewash or actually glorify the Third Reich and its representatives, characterized as it was by dictatorship, genocide and inhumanity."

In a number of places, stones and tablets commemorating the persecution of Jews were unveiled on November 9. Several cities took the anniversary of the Nazi pogrom as an occasion to strike the names of Adolf Hitler and other leading Nazis from their lists of honorary citizens. The city of Hamelin declined to take this step, on the grounds that honorary citizenship granted during the Third Reich could not be withdrawn. A spokesman for the city added that the need for such "purging" appeared dubious anyway, in view of the fact that Hamelin was "in the company of another 180 German cities" in which Hitler remained registered as an honorary citizen.

For its activities in 1978 the Coordinating Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation chose the theme "Martin Buber: Dialogue Today." Brotherhood Week, in early March, was conducted under the same motto. The Coordinating Council's Buber-Rosenzweig Medal for 1978 went to Grete Schaefer and Albrecht Goes, authors of several publications about Buber. On the occasion of Buber's 100th birthday, on February 8, the post office issued a commemorative stamp. In July a comprehensive Buber exhibition was opened in Worms, jointly sponsored by the Coordinating Council, the Rhineland-Palatinate state government, and the Hebrew University. Smaller Buber exhibitions were held in several other cities. In the course of the year, the Lambert Schneider publishing house in Heidelberg reissued 18 books by and about Buber, some of which had been out of print for decades. The Karl Hermann Flach Foundation awarded its Martin Buber Prize to Walter Hesselbach, a Frankfurt banker and labor leader, for his efforts "in behalf of better understanding between Germans and Jews." The citation, by Heinz-Herbert Karry, minister of economics of the state of Hesse, emphasized Hesselbach's role in the building of the State of Israel.

The village council of Oberammergau in Bavaria decided that the passion play scheduled for May 1980 would once more feature the traditional version by Alois Daisenberger, which had been criticized as anti-Jewish. A revised version, based on a text by Ferdinand Rosner, which had already been welcomed in Jewish quarters, would not be performed. However, the new producer, Hans Maier, stated that he would stage the play in the spirit of reconciliation and eliminate any elements of hatred. He indicated that he would comply with the wish of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Archbishop of Munich, that the text be made to conform with the guidelines of the Second Vatican Council, and would also take the suggestions and wishes of Jewish organizations into account as much as possible. However, there would be no falsification of the Bible. The prologue, Maier elaborated, would emphasize that there was no such thing as Jewish collective guilt in the death of Jesus. During July in Paris the Conference of European Rabbis voiced profound misgivings about the refusal of the organizing committee for the Oberammergau passion play to perform the reformed text. During July the passion play was the subject of a Jewish-Catholic dialogue in Munich, attended by representatives of the German Catholic Church and by a delegation of the American Jewish Committee, led by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum.

During November in Munich the local Jewish community and the United Lutheran Church of Germany expressed concern that radio and television paid little attention to Jews and Judaism. The airing of the American TV series *Holocaust*, scheduled for January 1979, was described as an important event, of equal concern to Jews and Christians in Germany. To deepen the understanding of the *Holocaust* series, the national network decided to present two documentaries, on the history of antisemitism and on the "final solution." Following each installment of *Holocaust*, live broadcasts were to be aired in which historians, psychologists, and eyewitnesses would discuss the various aspects of Nazism. The government-sponsored centers for political education in Bonn and Düsseldorf, as well as other educational institutions, compiled background materials for *Holocaust* for distribution to students in all types of educational programs.

In 1978, as in previous years, the president awarded the Service Cross of the Federal Order of Merit to several German citizens who had aided persecuted Jews during the Nazi period. Those receiving the medal were Hertha Brockschmidt, Elisabeth Weeg, Katharina Overath, and Walter Händeler.

In memory of the Jewish physician, writer, and educator Janusz Korczak of Poland, whose 100th birthday occurred in July, a memorial plaque was unveiled in the university clinic in Würzburg. In October the Leo Baeck Institute in New York presented the Leo Baeck Gold Medal to the German publisher Axel Springer, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of German-Jewish reconciliation. In June CDU party chairman Helmut Kohl visited the Leo Baeck Institute in New York and addressed a gathering of Jews from Germany.

Publications

Publications on Jewish and Israeli themes were amply represented in the offerings of German-language book publishers.

In the field of Jewish history the following titles appeared: Monika Richarz, *Jüdisches Leben in Deutschland: Selbstzeugnisse zur Sozialgeschichte im Kaiserreich* ("Jewish Life in Germany: Original Documents on the Social History of the Empire"; Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart); Jürgen Thorwald, *Das Gewürz: Die Saga der Juden in Amerika* ("The Condiment: The Saga of the Jews in America"; Droemer, Munich); Stefi Jersch-Wenzel, *Juden und Franzosen in der Wirtschaft des Raumes Berlin-Brandenburg zur Zeit des Merkantilismus* ("Jews and French in the Economy of the Berlin-Brandenburg Region During the Era of Mercantilism"; Colloquium, Berlin); Haim Hillel Ben-Sasson, editor, *Geschichte des jüdischen Volkes* ("History of the Jewish People," 3 vols.; C.H. Beck, Munich); Henriette Hannah Bodenheimer, *Der Durchbruch des politischen Zionismus in Köln 1890–1900: Eine Dokumentation* ("The Breakthrough of Political Zionism in Cologne, 1890–1900: A Documentation"; Bund, Cologne); Nahum Goldmann, *Das jüdische Paradox: Zionismus und Judentum nach Hitler* ("The Jewish Paradox: Zionism and Jewry After Hitler"; Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Cologne); Heinz-Dietrich Löwe,

Antisemitismus und reaktionäre Utopie: Russischer Konservatismus im Kampf gegen den Wandel von Staat und Gesellschaft ("Anti-Semitism and Reactionary Utopianism: Russian Conservatism in the Struggle against Political and Social Change"; Hoffmann und Campe, Hamburg); Birgitta Mogge, *Rhetorik des Hasses: Eugen Dühring und die Genese seines anti-semitischen Wortschatzes* ("Rhetoric of Hate: Eugen Dühring and the Genesis of His Anti-Semitic Vocabulary"; Gesellschaft für Buchdruckerei, Neuss); *Das jüdische Prag: Eine Sammelschrift* ("Jewish Prague: An Anthology"; with texts by Max Brod, Franz Kafka, Else Lasker-Schüler, Isidor Pollak, Robert Weltsch, Franz Werfel; Jüdischer Verlag, Königstein); Inge Fleischhauer and Hillel Klein, *Über die jüdische Identität: Eine psychohistorische Studie* ("On Jewish Identity: A Psychohistorical Study"; Jüdischer Verlag, Königstein); Werner Schochow, *Deutsch-jüdische Geschichtswissenschaft: Eine Geschichte ihrer Organisationsformen* ("German-Jewish Historiography: A History of Its Organizational Forms"; Colloquium, Berlin); Guido Kisch, *Judentaufen: Eine historisch-biographisch-psychologisch-soziologische Studie* ("Baptism of Jews: A Study in History, Biography, Psychology, and Sociology"; Colloquium, Berlin); Günther Stemberger, *Geschichte der jüdischen Literatur: Eine Einführung* ("History of Jewish Literature: An Introduction"; C.H. Beck, Munich); Helmut Dinse and Sol Liptzin: *Einführung in die jiddische Literatur* ("Introduction to Yiddish Literature"; Metzler, Stuttgart).

Israel and Middle East problems were the subjects of the following books: Herbert Fasching, Ferdinand Staudinger and Ferdinand Dexinger, *Gelobtes Land: Begegnung mit Israel* ("Promised Land: Encounter With Israel"; Tyrolia, Würzburg); Avraham Negev, *Funde und Schätze im Land der Bibel* ("Finds and Treasures in the Land of the Bible"; Calwer, Stuttgart); Gustav Stein, editor, *Menschenrechte in Israel und Deutschland: Ein Symposium der Gesellschaft zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Zusammenarbeit mit der Universität Tel Aviv* ("Human Rights in Israel and Germany: A Symposium of the Society for the Advancement of Scholarly Collaboration with Tel Aviv University"; Verlag Wissenschaft und Politik, Cologne); Günther and Leslie Petzold, *Shavei Zion: Blüte in Israel aus schwäbischer Wurzel* ("Shavei Zion: A Blossom in Israel from a Swabian Root"; Bleicher, Gerlingen); Alfred Salomon, *David und Jerusalem: Ein Reiseführer, den die Bibel schrieb* ("David and Jerusalem: A Travel Guide Written in the Bible"; Aussaat, Wuppertal); Hilla and Max Jacoby, *Shalom: Impressionen aus dem Heiligen Land* ("Shalom: Impressions from the Holy Land"; Hoffmann und Campe, Hamburg); Herbert Haag, *Das Land der Bibel: Gestalt, Geschichte, Erforschung* ("The Land of the Bible: Aspects, History, Exploration"; Pattloch, Aschaffenburg); Franz Ansprenger, *Juden und Araber in einem Land: Die politischen Beziehungen der beiden Völker im Mandatsgebiet Palästina und im Staat Israel* ("Jews and Arabs in One Country: The Political Relationships of the Two Peoples Under the Palestinian Mandate and in the State of Israel"; Mathias Grünewald, Mainz); *Wir wollen Frieden: Bilder und Gedichte von jüdischen und arabischen Kindern aus Israel* (We Want Peace: Pictures and Poems by Jewish and Arab Children in Israel"; Herder,

Freiburg); Rusia Lampel, . . . *als ob wir im Frieden lebten: Das Mädchen Lo-lo will ein Buch schreiben, durchstreift Jerusalem und findet sich selbst* (" . . . As If We Lived in Peace: Lo-lo Means to Write a Book, Roams Jerusalem and Finds Herself"; Herder, Freiburg).

The Nazi era and related topics were dealt with in the following books: Dieter Bossmann, editor, *Was ich über Adolf Hitler gehört habe: Folgen eines Tabus—Auszüge aus Schüler-Aufsätzen von heute* ("What I Know About Adolf Hitler: Consequences of a Taboo—Excerpts from Present-Day School Themes"; Fischer-Taschenbuch, Frankfurt); Fred Hahn, *Lieber Stürmer: Leserbriefe an das NS-Kampfblatt 1924 bis 1945* ("Dear Stürmer: Readers' Letters to the Nazi Propaganda Paper, 1924 to 1945"; Seewald, Stuttgart); Falk Pingel, *Häftlinge unter SS-Herrschaft: Widerstand, Selbstbehauptung und Vernichtung im Konzentrationslager* ("Prisoners under SS Rule: Resistance, Self-preservation and Annihilation in the Concentration Camps"; Hoffmann und Campe, Hamburg); Fritz Bringmann, *Kindermord am Bullenhuserdamm: SS-Verbrechen in Hamburg—Menschenversuche an Kindern* ("Child Murder on Bullenhuserdamm: SS Crimes in Hamburg—Experiments on Children"; Röderberg, Frankfurt); Kazimierz Moczarski, *Gespräche mit dem Henker: Das Leben des SS-Gruppenführers und Generalleutnants der Polizei Jürgen Stroop aufgezeichnet im Mokotow-Gefängnis zu Warschau* ("Conversations With the Hangman: The Life of SS and Police Lieutenant General Jürgen Stroop, Recorded in the Mokotow Prison in Warsaw"; from the Polish; Droste, Düsseldorf); Max Oppenheimer, Horst Stuckmann and Rudi Schneider, *Als die Synagogen brannten: Zur Funktion des Antisemitismus gestern und heute* ("When the Synagogues Blazed: On the Function of Anti-semitism, Yesterday and Today"; Röderberg, Frankfurt); Hartmut Metzger, *Kristallnacht: Dokumente von gestern zum Gedenken heute* ("Crystal Night: Documents of Yesterday for Remembrance Today"; Calwer, Stuttgart); Jürgen Pomorin and Reinhard Junge, *Die Neonazis und wie man sie bekämpfen kann* ("The Neo-Nazis and How to Fight Them"; Weltkreis, Dortmund).

On questions of religion and faith the following were published: Ulrich Gerhardt, *Jüdisches Leben im jüdischen Ritual: Studien und Beobachtungen 1902–1933* ("Jewish Life in Jewish Ritual: Studies and Observations, 1902–1933"; Schneider, Heidelberg); Shemaryahu and Gregor Siefer, editors, *Religion und Politik in der Gesellschaft des 20. Jahrhunderts: Ein Symposium mit israelischen und deutschen Wissenschaftlern* ("Religion and Politics in 20th Century Society: A Symposium of Israeli and German Scholars"; Keil, Bonn); Hermann Cohen, *Religion der Vernunft aus den Quellen des Judentums: Eine jüdische Religionsphilosophie* ("Religion of Reason Out of the Sources of Judaism: A Jewish Philosophy of Religion"; Fourier, Wiesbaden); Hellmut Gollwitzer and Rolf Rendtorff, *Thema: Juden-Christen—Ein Gespräch* ("Topic: Jews and Christians—A Dialogue"; Radius, Stuttgart); Werner M. T. Keuck, *Maria und die Bibel Israels* ("Mary and the Bible of Israel"; Kanisius, Freiburg); Magnus Magnusson, *Auf den Spuren der Bibel: Die berühmten Überlieferungen des Alten Testaments, von der Archäologie neu entdeckt* ("On the Track

of the Bible: The Famous Traditions of the Old Testament, Rediscovered by Archaeology"; Bertelsmann, Munich); Pinchas Lapide, Franz Mussner and Ulrich Wilckens, *Was Juden und Christen voneinander denken* ("What Jews and Christians Think of Each Other"; Herder, Freiburg); Walter Strolz, editor, *Jüdische Hoffnungskraft und christlicher Glaube* ("Jewish Hope and Christian Faith"; Herder, Freiburg); Roland Gradwohl, *Die Worte aus dem Feuer: Wie die Gebote das Leben erfüllen* ("The Words From the Fire: How the Commandments Give Fulfillment to Life"; Herder, Freiburg); Michael Brocke and Walter Strolz, editors, *Das Vaterunser: Vom Gemeinsamen im Beten der Juden und Christen* ("The Lord's Prayer: Common Features in Jewish and Christian Praying"; Herder, Freiburg); Pnina Navè, editor, *Du, unser Vater: Jüdische Gebete für Christen* ("Thou, Our Father: Jewish Prayers for Christians"; Herder, Freiburg); Thomas and G. Sartory, editors, *Weisung in Freude: Aus der jüdischen Überlieferung* ("Joyous Instruction: From Jewish Tradition"; Herder, Freiburg); Martin Levi Bass, *Jesus für Israel: Leben und Botschaft eines Judenmissionars—Rabbinerschüler in Hamburg, Emigration nach Argentinien, Taufe, Theologie* ("Jesus for Israel: The Life and Message of a Missionary to the Jews—Rabbinical Student in Hamburg, Emigration to Argentina, Baptism, Theology"; Verlag der Evangelisch-lutherischen Mission, Erlangen); Pinchas E. Lapide, *Hebräisch in den Kirchen: Forschungen zum jüdisch-christlichen Dialog* ("Hebrew in the Churches: Explorations Concerning Jewish-Christian Dialogue," Vol. 1; Neukirchener, Neukirchen).

Biographical subjects included the following: Ernst Simon, *Martin Bubers lebendiges Erbe* ("Martin Buber's Living Heritage"; Schneider, Heidelberg); Roger Mosre, *Gotteserfahrung bei Martin Buber: Eine theologische Untersuchung* ("The Experience of God in Martin Buber: A Theological Inquiry"; Schneider, Heidelberg); Hugo S. Bergmann, *Die dialogische Philosophie von Kierkegaard bis Buber* ("The Philosophy of Dialogue from Kierkegaard to Buber"; Schneider, Heidelberg); Sigrid Bauschinger, *Else Lasker-Schüler: Ihr Werk und ihre Zeit* ("Else Lasker-Schüler: Her Work and Times"; Schneider, Heidelberg); Schalom Ben-Chorin, *Zwiesprache mit Martin Buber* ("Dialogue With Martin Buber"; Bleicher, Gerlingen); Paul B. Mendes-Flohr, *Von der Mystik zum Dialog: Martin Bubers geistige Entwicklung bis hin zu "Ich und Du"* ("From Mysticism to Dialogue: Martin Buber's Spiritual Development up to 'I and Thou'"; Jüdischer Verlag, Königstein); Wolfram Köhler, *Der Chef-Redakteur: Theodor Wolff—Ein Leben in Europa 1868–1943* ("The Editor in Chief: Theodor Wolff—A Life in Europe, 1868–1943"; Droste, Düsseldorf); Janusz Korczak, *Verteidigt die Kinder! Erzählende Pädagogik* ("Defend the Children! Narrative Pedagogy"; Gütersloh, Gütersloh); Teddy Kollek and Amos Kollek, *Ein Leben für Jerusalem* ("A Life for Jerusalem"; Hoffmann und Campe, Hamburg); Christoph Stölzl, *Kafkas böses Böhmen: Zur Sozialgeschichte eines Prager Juden* ("Kafka's Evil Bohemia: Concerning the Social History of a Prague Jew"; Edition Text und Kritik, Munich); Inge Deutschkron, *Ich trug den gelben Stern* ("I Wore the Yellow Star"; Wissenschaft und Politik, Cologne); Jürgen Schultz, editor, *Mein Judentum: Jüdische Autoren schildern ihr Selbstverständnis*

("My Judaism: Jewish Authors Describe Their Self-understanding"; Kreuz, Stuttgart).

In the field of literature, the following books were issued: Gertrud Kolmar, *Eine jüdische Mutter* ("A Jewish Mother"; Kösel, Munich); Edgar Hilsenrath, *Nacht: Roman aus dem Konzentrationslager* ("Night: A Novel of the Concentration Camp"; Literarischer Verlag Braun, Cologne); Ephraim Kishon, *Salomons Urteil zweite Instanz* ("Solomon's Judgment, On Appeal"; Ullstein, Berlin); Ephraim Kishon, *Kishon für Kenner: ABC der Heiterkeit* ("Kishon for Connoisseurs: An ABC of Humor"; Langen-Müller, Munich); Ephraim Kishon, *Das grosse Kishon-Karussell: Gesammelte Satiren 1968-1976* ("The Great Kishon Carousel: Collected Satires, 1968-1976"; Langen-Müller, Munich); Leoni Ossowski, *Sterne ohne Himmel: Roman eines jüdischen Jungen im Dritten Reich* ("Stars Without Sky: A Novel of a Jewish Boy in the Third Reich"; Beltz, Weinheim); Salcia Landmann, editor, *Scholem Alejchem: Neue Anatevka-Geschichten* ("Sholom Aleichem: New Stories of Anatevka"; Limes, Munich); Berndt W. Wessling, *Die Töchter Zions: Roman* ("The Daughters of Zion: A Novel"; Hoffmann und Campe, Hamburg); Jean Amery, *Charles Bovary, Landarzt: Porträt eines einfachen Mannes* ("Charles Bovary, Country Doctor: Portrait of a Plain Man"; Klett, Stuttgart).

Personalia

Werner Nachmann, chairman of the board of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and president of the Senior Council of Jews in Baden, was awarded the Medal of Merit of the state of Baden-Württemberg. Kurt Neuwald, president of the Jewish community in Gelsenkirchen, received the Great Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his services on behalf of West Germany's Jewish citizens.

Dr. Leo Adlerstein, chairman of the board of the Jewish community in Düsseldorf and a board member of the Federation of Societies of Friends of the Hebrew University in West Germany, received the title of Honorary Fellow of the Hebrew University. The Cultural Circle of the Federal Association of German Industry presented its literary award for the year to the poet Rose Ausländer. A street in Düsseldorf was named after the late Dr. Josef Neuberger, one-time minister of justice in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and chairman of the board of the Jewish community in Düsseldorf.

Dr. Alexander Besser, publicist and attorney, died in Frankfurt on July 8, aged 78. Dr. Paul Arnsberg, journalist, historian, and for many years a representative of the Jewish community, died in Frankfurt on December 10, aged 79.

FRIEDO SACHSER

German Democratic Republic

IN ITS ROSH HA-SHANAH message for 5739, the Verband der jüdischen Gemeinden der DDR (Federation of Jewish Communities in the German Democratic Republic) stated: "On balance, we may be satisfied with what many of our fellow religionists, both men and women, have accomplished here. Our communities, small as they have unfortunately become, have gained a good reputation beyond the borders of our country, and, thanks to the efforts of outstanding individuals, our Federation has won worldwide recognition, as is shown by our cooperation in international as well as national bodies."

The eight communities affiliated with the Federation had fewer than 800 members in 1978. In East Berlin there were about 360 Jews; only 120 of them were under 60 years old. The president of the Federation, Helmut Aris, was 70 years old in May; he had held his office since 1962.

On the 40th anniversary of Crystal Night in November, Erich Honecker, secretary general of the SED (Socialist Unity party) and chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, sent Helmut Aris a message stating, among other things:

It is my desire to assure you and all members of the Jewish communities in the German Democratic Republic of our vigilant remembrance of the victims and their measureless sufferings. In doing so, I am mindful of the fact that our socialist state of workers and peasants has forever cut the ground from under any reactionary forces. As a secure home of humanitarianism and progress, our state guarantees all citizens equal participation in the life of the society . . . By building socialism, our nation, as master of its fate, shapes its new life. In this process, citizens of the Jewish faith have an active share. They have equal rights in the German Democratic Republic, and enjoy equal respect. As they practice their religion and cultivate their tradition, they may continue to count on the full understanding of our state and our society.

Aris thanked Honecker for his words, which, he said, "we view as renewed confirmation of the great solicitude the German Democratic Republic bestows on the work of the Jewish communities." The message, he stated, gave Jewish citizens "an incentive and an obligation to continue working for the well-being of our socialist homeland, for peace and for understanding among nations."

The East German population marked Crystal Night with commemorations and the laying of wreaths in many places, including Dresden and Leipzig, at the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp, and St. Sophia's Church, the Weissensee Jewish cemetery, and the newly restored Rykestrasse synagogue in East Berlin. The events were attended by representatives of the state, the church, and the various Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. The Lutheran Church of East Germany,

in a message marking the Crystal Night anniversary, recalled the guilt Christians shared in the persecution of the Jews. A Crystal Night study group of the Lutheran Church published an informative brochure, *Als die Synagogen brannten: Kristallnacht und Kirche* ("When the Synagogues Blazed: The Crystal Night and the Church"). The introduction noted that the majority of Germans and Christians witnessed the persecution of Jews passively, "with arms folded." The brochure stated that its aim was to help restore names and faces to the six million murdered Jews.

In September Bishop Albrecht Schönherr, chairman of the Bund der evangelischen Kirchen in der DDR (Federation of Lutheran Churches in the German Democratic Republic) expressed deep misgivings over the influence of the still unmastered Nazi past on present-day youth in East Germany. Despite the efforts of the state to extirpate the dire legacy of Nazism, an appalling amount of fascist thinking was still to be found among young people, he asserted. The head of the secretariat of the Federation of Lutheran Churches, Manfred Stolpe, commented that his organization was aware of several cases of antisemitic utterances and actions by young people in East Germany, but warned against exaggerating the significance of these incidents. It would be a mistake to speak of anything like a Hitler cult in East Germany, he said. The East Berlin weekly *Weltbühne* also rejected the allegation that the country was antisemitic. East Germany had repeatedly spoken out against the policies of the Israeli government, it was explained, "but never against Israel or against the Jews." Opposition to Zionism could not be equated with antisemitism, *Weltbühne* maintained.

Since 1945, 12,681 Nazi criminals have been sentenced in the territory of East Germany; 1,578 persons have been acquitted. Proceedings were abandoned, for various reasons, in 2,187 cases. The judgments included 118 death sentences and 240 sentences to life imprisonment. Since 1964, 54 judgments against Nazi criminals have been handed down; a number of investigations are still under way. At the end of 1978, 42 Nazi criminals were in prison in East Germany, 24 of them for life. The office of the Prosecutor General did not rule out the possibility that additional Nazi criminals might be tracked down. In August an East Berlin court pronounced a life sentence on Herbert Paland, 63, a former member of the Nazi secret field police, for war crimes.

The East German government kept up its consistently pro-Arab and anti-Israel policy during the year. It was one of the severest critics of the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations. East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer stated during the fall, before the UN General Assembly, that attempts to create sham solutions through separate agreements amounted to "playing with fire." In the opinion of *Neues Deutschland*, the official organ of SED, the Middle East debate in the UN made it clear that "Arab suffering" in the territories occupied by Israel would not end until "the aggressor totally withdraws its troops." In November the newspaper also accused the Jewish State of "continual mistreatment of prisoners" and "constant violation of human rights." In the territories occupied by Israel, "deportation,

robbery and terror" were said to prevail. These crimes were described as "part of a policy of de-Arabization and Zionist settlement," in an effort by Israel to create a *fait accompli* on the Golan Heights, in the Gaza Strip, and on the West Bank.

The Communist regime's anti-Israel posture received support in Jewish circles. Thus, in October Franz Loeser wrote in *Weltbühne*:

The dreams of a home where Jews might live free from antisemitism, in peace with each other and their neighbors, was destroyed by the rulers in Tel Aviv. Zionism has not done away with antisemitism; on the contrary, it has added fuel to it through its aggressive and chauvinistic policies. Zionism has not brought the Jews peace but has driven the citizens of Israel from one war into another since the state was born. To rob the Palestinians of their land and property, the Zionists not only stand ready to perpetrate brutal racism and dreadful murder upon the Palestinians; evidently they do not even shrink from dragging humankind into a world war in order to put through their Zionist dream.

In East Berlin during March, PLO chief Yasir Arafat signed an agreement providing for cooperation between SED and the PLO. On this occasion, East German politicians stressed their determination to increase support for the PLO and the Arab nations. East Germany's solidarity "with the Arab nations fighting the Israeli aggressors and their backers" required renewed and greater efforts, said Kurt Seibt, a top functionary of SED and president of the East German Solidarity Committee. Similarly, SED Secretary General Erich Honecker assured Arafat of "the continued unqualified solidarity of the people of the German Democratic Republic with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine for the realization of its national rights, under the PLO's leadership." In June Arafat took part in a "Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of Middle Eastern Anti-imperialist Forces for Peace and Social Progress," held in East Berlin.

In June the Libyan chief of state, Muammar al-Qaddafi, paid a state visit to East Berlin. In October Syrian President Hafez al-Assad was received there. He and SED Secretary General Honecker signed a declaration in which they advocated a "comprehensive, just and durable settlement in the Middle East." Such a settlement, the declaration stated, could be attained only "through Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and through realization of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights."

FRIEDO SACHSER