

Western Europe

Great Britain

National Affairs

IN 1981 THERE WAS a royal wedding, but also urban riots on an unprecedented scale. Most of the violence was centered in run-down inner-city areas in which unemployed young blacks formed a large part of the population. In April riots broke out in Brixton, South London, resulting in extensive damage and widespread looting. Early in July white "skinheads" attacked Asian youths in Southall, West London. Between July 6 and 12 there were riots in Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, Wood Green (North London), and other areas. The police bore the brunt of the violence, suffering more than 300 casualties. In November an inquiry conducted by Lord Scarman concluded that urban violence was fueled by poor police relations with the black community. Scarman called for the creation of police review boards to make the police more accountable for their actions.

In February concern over increased racial violence caused Home Secretary William Whitelaw to institute a probe of racist organizations. In May Peter Alexander, national organizer of the Anti-Nazi League (ANL), said that the activities of the extreme right-wing National Front (NF) had become more avowedly Fascist and Nazi in outlook. In November NF set up an industrial department with a special section to infiltrate and recruit members within the trade union movement. Nevertheless, in the May county council elections, NF and other racist organizations fielded fewer candidates and took a half to a third fewer votes than in 1977; in Greater London, NF's vote fell to 34,000 from 119,000; in the West Midlands, NF and British Movement (BM) candidates obtained two per cent of the total vote as against 17 per cent in 1977.

Home Secretary Whitelaw banned NF marches when he was requested to do so by chief constables. This happened in Leicester and Wolverhampton in March; in Crawley (West Sussex) and Liverpool in August; and in Brent (London) and Rochdale in December. A march by BM members in Southend in August met with violent opposition from the local Anti-Fascist Committee and ANL.

In December the director of public prosecutions decided to take action against Robert Hamilton Edwards, cartoonist for the violently antisemitic *The Stormer*, under the race relations act.

In October immigration officials at London's Heathrow airport refused to allow Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Jewish Defense League, to enter the country.

The established political parties suffered declines in popularity; the Conservatives because of their failure to revive the economy in any perceptible way and Labor on account of internal disputes. The conflict within Labor reached a peak in a public row between party leader Michael Foot and left-wing spokesman Tony Benn. The growing influence of the latter led to the formation of the Social Democratic party (SDP). An early indication of the new party's appeal came at Warrington in July when Roy Jenkins, former Labor chancellor, cut the Labor majority from 10,274 to 1,759 votes. In September SDP formed an alliance with the small Liberal party and in October won its first seat with a by-election victory at Croydon, a seat previously held by the Conservatives. In the Crosby by-election in November, former Labor minister of education Shirley Williams, now a leading SDP member, made an even greater impact by overturning a Conservative majority of 19,272 votes.

Relations with Israel

Britain's Middle East policy was bound up with the Venice declaration of the European Economic Community (EEC). This was particularly so after June when Foreign Secretary Carrington took over the six-month presidency of EEC's council of ministers. Proclaiming 1981 "the year of progress in the settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute," Carrington reiterated the argument that EEC's initiative was not meant to undercut the Camp David accords. The PLO, he argued, should be included in future peace efforts, with the PLO recognizing Israel's right to exist in secure borders and Israel recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. In December, after a year of intensive British diplomacy in the Arab world, Douglas Hurd, minister of state with special responsibility in the foreign office for the Middle East and North Africa, admitted that little progress had resulted from EEC's peace initiative.

In March Sir Ian Gilmour expressed the government's anger at "the speeding up of [Israeli] settlements on the West Bank." In June Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher condemned Israel's air attack on Iraq's nuclear installation as a "grave breach of international law." In July she described Israel's actions in Lebanon as wholly disproportionate to any attacks on Israeli territory. In November British support for a Saudi Arabian peace plan, as well as remarks by Lord Carrington on the Sinai peace-keeping force that seemed to repudiate the Camp David accords, brought a warning from Prime Minister Begin that Britain and other Common Market countries might be barred from participation in the force. In December Prime Minister Thatcher condemned Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights at a dinner celebrating the Board of Deputies of British Jews' 220th anniversary, stressing "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war," enshrined in UN resolution 242.

In January Douglas Hurd stated that British officials had maintained contact with the PLO for some time, and believed such contacts to be "in our interests and in the interest of peace." On the other hand, Hurd and Prime Minister Thatcher declined to attend a London dinner arranged by Arab diplomats in July because a PLO representative had been invited. "We quite rightly do not recognize the PLO. We do not recognize organizations, only countries," said Thatcher in Kuwait in October. Britain did not have ministerial meetings with the PLO, she continued, "first because of the association with terrorism, and secondly, because of the statements by parts of the PLO that their real objective is to drive Israel into the sea."

Jewish community fears of growing PLO influence in Great Britain were fed by the Dundee (Scotland) council's decision to twin with the West Bank city of Nablus. The PLO's flag flew over the Dundee town hall, and the mayor of the city made an Arab-financed visit to Nablus. Protest meetings against the twinning were held, and a vast "Say No to PLO" rally was organized in London's Trafalgar Square by the Board of Deputies in conjunction with the Zionist Federation (ZF).

Anti-Zionist forces were responsible for motions being debated on university campuses throughout Britain to twin with West Bank universities. Such motions were passed by the Glasgow University student representative council (Bir Zeit), the Strathclyde student union (Bethlehem), and Girton College, Cambridge. Anti-Zionist motions were passed at Sussex University and at Brighton and Middlesex Polytechnics.

In July an SDP friends of Israel group was formed with MP Bill Rodgers as president.

Trade figures announced in January showed that Israel's exports to Great Britain in 1980 (valued at £236.6 million), were up by four per cent over 1979, while British exports to Israel (valued at £231.6 million) were down by 14.4 per cent. In March new government currency regulations allowed Israel bonds to be purchased in Britain for the first time. Also in March the Egyptian ambassador and the commercial counsellor attended a thirtieth anniversary celebration of the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce, which that month had organized the first Israeli industrial exhibition in London.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography

The Jewish population of Great Britain was estimated to be 390,000. Leading Jewish population centers were London, Manchester, Leeds, and Glasgow.

The Board of Deputies' research unit reported that synagogue marriages fell from 1,303 in 1979 to 1,222 in 1980, the lowest figure in 20 years. The greatest declines were among the Sephardim and the Liberals; the modern Orthodox sector grew. The majority of marriages were in London, indicating a drop in the provincial

communities. However, Barry Kosmin, director of the research unit, told the *Jewish Chronicle* that a survey of the Jewish population was needed in order to obtain a clear picture of what was happening.

In July the Jewish Marriage Council decided to sponsor a marriage bureau.

Burials and cremations under Jewish religious auspices fell to 4,656 in 1980, from 4,889 in 1979.

In April Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits predicted that apathy and assimilation would reduce the Jewish population of Great Britain to around 300,000 by the year 2000. However, he argued that the community's future would be assured by building upon the successful network of Jewish day schools.

Communal Activities

Current economic conditions, in conjunction with local government spending cuts, had changed the emphasis in Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) activities to non-residential services such as social work teams based in areas of high Jewish population and day centers. Sobell House, Golders Green, London, had a register of over 900 elderly and handicapped persons. Nearly 400 pensioners met at Sylvia Leighton Day Center, Hackney, London. The Gants Hill, Essex project, that was in the process of construction, would be the last residential home for the foreseeable future. JWB currently administered 14 homes for the elderly and, through an associated housing society, maintained 293 people in seven flatlet blocks.

In August the Housing Society, established by JWB, received approval and an offer of funding from the Housing Corporation to develop 28 units of sheltered housing, including special facilities for the disabled, on a site adjoining the Sobell Center. The new housing was to be administered by JWB and the Jewish Blind Society.

In December JWB took over the affairs of the Jewish Bread, Meat, and Coal Society, the oldest Jewish charitable organization in Britain.

In October the Westlon Housing Association announced a £1 million sheltered flatlet scheme for elderly Jews to be built in Ealing, London.

In August the British ORT Trust, in collaboration with the Manpower Services Commission, announced plans for a vocational training center in North Manchester. The scheme, British ORT's first "operational" project in Great Britain since the 1940's, would provide 45 places for young people over the age of 16.

In September the Ravenswood Foundation established a visiting professorship in special education at the Bulmershe College of Higher Education, Reading, Berkshire.

Zionism

Interim reports in August and October by a commission appointed to appraise the funding of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland (ZF) stressed the

need to uphold the principle of accountability throughout the organization. The commission urged that priority be given to re-establishing the ZF department responsible for maintaining and expanding Zionist societies in London and the provinces, and to improving ZF's public relations efforts.

The Joint Israel Appeal (JIA) took several cost-cutting measures during the year. In February it withdrew financial backing and staff services from the annual Independence Day celebration; in March it put ZF on a "cash only" basis; and in September it withdrew its annual grant of £20,000 to the Hillel Foundation. JIA was "running a different campaign, reflecting the difficult economic environment," said national chairman Trevor Chinn, in June.

With one thousand emigrants, Britain was the only country in the world which maintained stable *aliyah* during 1980. Whereas youth movement graduates and retired people had previously predominated, a growing number of professional people had emigrated recently. Seventy per cent of all British *olim* in 1980 were under the age of 30.

Soviet Jewry

Prime Minister Thatcher's pledge to the Board of Deputies in December of government cooperation in the cause of Soviet Jewry was foreshadowed earlier in the year when she received the wife of Anatoly Shcharansky, supported the Wilberforce council's world-wide campaign to reunite Soviet Jews with their families, and met with a joint delegation from the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Jewish Students. "We have conveyed to the Soviet Union, at a high level, our concern about the abuses of human rights. We shall continue to take every suitable opportunity to reiterate that concern," Thatcher said in December.

Jewish and non-Jewish groups in London and the provinces continued to campaign on behalf of Soviet Jews. In February senior national officers of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen espoused the cause of Soviet Jewish war veterans wishing to emigrate. In March some 750 young people held a torchlight procession through Manchester to express solidarity with Soviet Jewry. In April 75 British academics signed a letter to the Soviet minister of culture protesting the repeated harassment of Hebrew teachers and their students. In May members of a new organization, Concerned Jewish Youth, disrupted a Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra concert at London's Festival Hall. In June more than 100 fellows of the Royal Society protested to the Soviet authorities over the arrest and impending trial of Viktor Brailovsky. In November a large group of MP's signed a motion expressing grave concern at the reduction in the number of exit permits being granted. In December Hull and Bristol students demonstrated in support of Russian Jewish students.

Religion

George Gee, who in June won the first contested election for the United Synagogue (US) presidency, stated his intention to "extend the scope of US discussions, encourage greater autonomy for synagogues, and invite greater participation by young people in US work."

In November the US council voted to allow four members of the Ladies' Guilds to attend its meetings; they would have the right to speak, but not to vote or move motions. In December the council warned that it would look more closely at the viability of synagogues under its administration. "We can not worship at the shrine of empty buildings," said Gee.

In August Brixton synagogue, London, no longer situated at the center of the South London Jewish community, was sold. The proceeds of the sale were to be held until Streatham synagogue was also sold and a site could be found for a new joint congregation. New synagogues were opened in such fast growing areas as Belmont (Stanmore, Middlesex) and Pinner.

In March the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue raised membership fees by 30 per cent to meet inflation.

In May the first students graduated from Judith Lady Montefiore College, Golders Green, London.

A continuing swing to traditionalism was noted at the Liberal and Progressive Synagogues' conference in March. In December Rabbi Hugo Gryn, Reform and Liberal Rabbis' Council chairman, affirmed his adherence to the classical *halakhic* definition of a Jew. Gryn told the *Jewish Chronicle* that he was disturbed by trends in the Reform movement in the United States to actively seek converts and to regard the children of mixed marriages as Jewish regardless of the mother's faith. During 1980 the British Reform movement accepted 120 converts.

The number of functions supervised by the Kashrus Commission fell by a third in the first half of 1981. In February the meetings of the London Kashrus Commission were opened to women as observers for the first time. In May the London Board for Shechita announced plans to establish the Shechita Liaison Commission of Great Britain in conjunction with the National Council of Shechita Boards.

Jewish Education

The London Board of Jewish Religious Education was currently employing 326 Sunday and 112 midweek teachers. This compared with 408 and 165 teachers, respectively, in 1979.

In March a £90,000 deficit caused ZF's education trust to close Hillel House School, Willesden, London. The official opening of the Brodetsky primary school completed the three schools comprising the George Lyttleton Center, Leeds, sponsored by the trust. The Lyttleton Center provided Jewish education to nearly 700 children between the ages of three and 13.

The new £2 million Michael Sobell Sinai primary school in Kingsbury, London, opened in September.

In September the Akiva school, the first primary school established under the auspices of the Reform and Liberal movement, opened on a seven-acre site in Finchley, London. The property had been purchased by Leo Baeck College in January for use as a religious and educational center.

In December US vice-president Victor Lucas pledged the group's active support for a plan to make Jews' College (which in September admitted a record 13 new students) a university of Jewish studies. In September Jews' College announced that it had leased its central London premises.

Jewish studies programs at British universities were hard hit by government cuts. In August it was announced that Jewish studies would be completely eliminated at Lancaster University. In December the closure was mooted of the nearly 100-year-old Hebrew section of Leeds' University's semitic studies department.

In March, at a Cambridge conference, the Hebraica Libraries Group, concerned with Hebrew manuscript and book collections, was formed. In July it was announced that preservation work on the Taylor-Schechter genizah collection housed at Cambridge University library would be completed in the coming year.

Publications

The *Jewish Chronicle*-Harold Wingate literary awards went to Jerry White for *Rothschild Buildings—Life in an East End Tenement Block, 1887–1920* and to Mordecai Richler for his novel *Joshua Then and Now*.

Studies focusing on Anglo-Jewish communities and institutions included *The Jewish Communities of North East England, 1755–1980* by L. Olsover; *Birmingham Jewry, 1749–1914* by the Birmingham Jewish Research Group; *A History of the Jewish Working Men's Club and Institute, 1874–1912* by Harold Pollins; *East End Underworld* by Raphael Samuel; *Sheffield: Commentary on a Community* by Armin Krausz; and *Jewish Education, 1981/82* edited by Derek Taylor.

Events in Anglo-Jewish history were described in *The Battle of Stepney* by Colin Rogers (the Sidney Street siege) and *Shefford* by Judith Grunfeld (the Jewish Secondary School's evacuation to Bedfordshire).

Zionist histories included *Britain and Palestine* by Phillip Jones, a British Academy project listing unpublished documents of British industries and organizations involved in Palestine; *Britain and Zion—The Fateful Entanglement* by Frank Hardie and Irwin Herrman; and *Jews and Zionism: The South African Experience, 1910–1967* by Gideon Shimoni.

Among other historical works were *The Jews in Weimar Germany* by Donald L. Niewyk and *The Vanished Worlds of Jewry* by Raphael Patai.

Holocaust studies included *Blind Eye to Murder* by Tom Bower; *Return to Auschwitz* by Kitty Hart; and *Auschwitz and the Allies* by Martin Gilbert. *The House on Prague Street* by Hana Demetz describes life in Prague in the 1930's and 1940's.

Religious works included *Jewish Folklore and Legend* by David Goldstein; *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah* by George W.E. Nickelsburg; *Buber on God and the Perfect Man* by Pamela Vermes; and *Isaiah XXI: A Palimpsest* by A.A. Macintosh.

Among biographies were *Days of Sorrow and Pain* by Leonard Baker (Leo Baeck) and *Righteous Gentile* by John Bierman (Raoul Wallenberg). Lewis and Jacqueline Golden compiled *Harold Reinhart, 1891-1969: A Memorial Volume*. George Clare described a segment of family history in *Last Waltz in Vienna: The Destruction of a Family, 1842-1942*.

An important volume was *The Penguin Book of Hebrew Verse*, edited and translated by T. Carmi.

Fiction included *Deceptive Cadence* by Eugenia Zukerman; *Reparations* by Rudolf Nassauer; *Farewell to Europe* by Walter Laqueur; *July's People* by Nadine Gordimer; *Birds of Passage* by Bernice Rubens; *The Patriarch* by Chaim Bermant; *The Portage to San Cristabel of A.H.* by George Steiner; and *Defy the Wilderness* by Lynne Reid Banks.

Personalia

Knighthoods went to Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits; Sidney Cyril Hamburger, chairman, North West Regional Health Authority; and Maxwell Joseph, chairman, Grand Metropolitan, Ltd.

Nigel Lawson, financial secretary to the treasury, was made a privy counsellor. Edwina Coven was appointed to serve as the first woman lieutenant of London.

British Jews who died in 1981 included Hephzibah Menuhin, musician, in January, aged 60; Godfrey Phineas Godfrey-Isaacs, expert in child delinquency, in January, aged 90; Israel Feldman, physician and communal leader, in February, aged 92; Gustav George Bunzl, treasurer, British Committee of Children and Youth Aliyah, in February, aged 64; Schlomo Baumgarten, dayan, Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, in February, aged 76; Rabbi Eliezer Spector, educator, in February, aged 69; Marguerite Gollancz, prominent archivist, in March, aged 69; Pierre Gildegame, Maccabi movement leader and founder of a youth leadership award, in March, aged 77; Hugh Harris, *Jewish Chronicle* literary editor for 30 years, in March, aged 83; Felix Gluck, children's book publisher, in March, aged 58; Walter Simon, emeritus professor of Chinese at London University, in March, aged 87; Reuben Kelf-Cohen, economist and civil servant, in March, aged 85; Abraham Wix, tobacco manufacturer and philanthropist, in April, aged 86; George Bilainkin, author, lecturer, and historian, in April, aged 78; Daphne Sasieni, psychiatrist and prison medical officer, in April; Victor Waddington, art world personality, in May, aged 74; Isaac Eugene Kornberg, businessman, in May, aged 81; Maurice Ludmer, editor, anti-fascist monthly, *Searchlight*, in May, aged 54; Cyril Salmon, circuit judge, in May, aged 56; Cecil Bernstein, arts patron and philanthropist, in June, aged 76; Manuel, Lord Kissen, Scotland's first Jewish high court judge and

senator of the College of Justice, in June, aged 65; Frederic Warburg, publisher, in June, aged 82; Sir Philip Wien, high court judge, in June, aged 67; Alfred Strudwick, chairman, Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, in July, aged 58; Sir Frederick Lawrence, civic and communal leader, in July, aged 91; Maurice Barbanell, founder and editor, *Psychic News*, in July, aged 79; John Maurice Shaftesley, *Jewish Chronicle* editor, 1946–1958, in August, aged 80; Harry Bloom, anti-apartheid lawyer and academic, in August, aged 64; Jakob J. Kokotek, rabbi, London's Belsize Square Reform Synagogue, in September, aged 70; Eugen Glueckauf, atomic scientist, in September, aged 75; Sam Costa, show business personality, in September, aged 71; P. Selvin Goldberg, rabbi, Manchester Reform Congregation, in October, aged 63; Cyril Carr, Lord Mayor of Liverpool and president-elect of the Liberal party, in November, aged 55; Fay Schneider, kosher caterer, in November; Jacob Teicher, lecturer in rabbinics, Cambridge University, in November, aged 77; Sir Hans Krebs, Nobel laureate and professor of biochemistry, Sheffield and Oxford Universities, in November, aged 81; Louis Michaels, impresario, in December, aged 78; Reuben Ainsztein, historian and journalist, in December, aged 64; Cecil P. Taylor, playwright, in December, aged 52; Martin Sulzbacher, Jewish bookseller, in December, aged 85; Maurice Fogel, illusionist, in December, aged 70.

LIONEL AND MIRIAM KOCHAN

France

National Affairs

DURING THE FIRST FEW MONTHS of 1981, France was caught up in the excitement of the presidential election campaign. A decrease in the number of votes for the incumbent president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, was expected, but it was still thought likely that he would win. Adding credibility to this view was the persistent disunity of the left coalition, manifesting itself most particularly in the Communist campaign against Socialist leader François Mitterrand. However, as the day of decision drew near, cracks appeared in the majority that were no less grave than those in the minority. Jacques Chirac, mayor of Paris and a former minister in the cabinet of Giscard d'Estaing, announced his candidacy for the presidency; he conducted an anti-Giscard campaign as violent as that of the Socialists. Other figures in the majority, including Michel Debré, prime minister in the cabinet of the late General Charles de Gaulle, also sharply criticized the president. Then, Debré too became a candidate. On the eve of the elections, the outcome remained uncertain, but Mitterrand's chances had clearly improved.

In Jewish circles the campaign was echoed in an appeal by Henri Hajdenberg, leader of the *Renouveau Juif* (Jewish Renewal) organization, to "vote sanctions" against Giscard d'Estaing, who was accused of pursuing a pro-Arab, anti-Israel policy. In practical terms—although it was never stated directly—*Renouveau Juif* sought to secure votes for Mitterrand. On the other hand, both Lionel Stoléro, the secretary of state responsible for the problems of immigrant workers and a man well-versed in Jewish culture, and Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, supported Giscard d'Estaing. Gérard Israël, a deputy in the European Parliament and editor of the Jewish quarterly *Les Nouveaux Cahiers* ("New Notebooks"), campaigned for Chirac. In general, Jews were solicited as such by all the parties except those on the extreme right; even the Communists distributed a propaganda leaflet addressed to Jews in the less affluent Paris neighborhoods.

There was some skepticism about the possibility of any real change in France's attitude toward Israel, even if the Socialists won. While Mitterrand himself was considered a friend of Israel, there were elements within the Socialist party, and even within Mitterrand's own entourage, that favored the PLO. It was also feared that Communist participation in the government might have serious implications for the conduct of foreign policy.

In the second round of the elections, on May 10, Mitterrand was elected president of the Republic by a vote of 15,708,000 (52 per cent) to 14,650,000 (48 per cent) for Giscard d'Estaing. In the new Parliament, the Socialists gained an absolute

majority of 285. The Communists suffered severe losses, emerging with only 44 seats, in contrast to their previous 86. The parties making up the old majority—the Rassemblement du Peuple Républicain (RDR, Rally for the Republic) and Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF, Union for Democracy in France)—lost about 150 seats.

The Socialists could have governed alone, but, as had been predicted and feared, the new cabinet of Pierre Mauroy ended up with four Communist ministers, among them Charles Fitermann, a Jew who had never shown the slightest interest in Jewish affairs. Two other ministers, Robert Badinter and Pierre Dreyfus, were committed Jews.

Among the government's first acts were several nationalizations, including large credit institutions, such as the dynastic Rothschild Bank. There were no great changes in foreign policy; France remained faithful to the spirit of NATO. Despite Communist participation in the government, relations with the USSR were encumbered by the situations in Afghanistan and Poland.

Mitterrand had announced that he would visit Israel if he won the election, but Israel's bombing of Iraq's nuclear plant at Tamuz, which had been built with French cooperation, led him to postpone the trip. At the end of September, Mitterrand went to Saudi Arabia. Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights at the end of the year created new Franco-Israeli tensions. While Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson visited Israel in early December, he first met with Yasir Arafat, head of the PLO. Cheysson's position on the Middle East was frankly pro-PLO; on one occasion, he compared Arafat's organization to the French resistance movement during the German occupation.

Anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli graffiti increasingly appeared on the walls of the Paris subway during the year. *Le Monde*, in its January 2 issue, published a front-page article by Jean-Marie Paupert, a Catholic writer and historian, reproaching French Jews for strongly asserting their Jewishness. Paupert advised French Jewry to be more moderate and discreet, and raised the possibility of an anti-Jewish reaction. The article brought an angry response from, among others, Simone de Beauvoir, companion of the late Jean-Paul Sartre.

The Socialists' accession to power stimulated a revival of secular militancy. There were demands for the total integration of private and parochial schools into the public education system and the end of all subsidies, direct or indirect, to non-state schools anywhere in France, including Alsace-Lorraine. If these demands were met, it would effectively mean the end of full-time Jewish schools.

In February the naming of the bishop of Orléans, Jean-Marie Lustiger, as archbishop of Paris created something of a sensation in Jewish circles, where it was seen as a response to the attack on the synagogue in rue Copernic the year before. It was said that Pope John Paul II had appointed Lustiger as a way of demonstrating his regard for Jews and his categorical rejection of all antisemitism. Lustiger had been born in Paris to a family of poor Polish-Jewish immigrants. During World War II, at the age of 14, he converted to Christianity under circumstances that were still

unknown. After his ordination as a priest, Lustiger not only repeatedly mentioned his Jewish origin, but insisted on identifying himself as a Jew in accordance with the classic Christian view that Christianity was the fulfillment of Judaism. Some Jews admired Lustiger for his proud acknowledgement of his Jewish roots, while others viewed him with the suspicion traditionally accorded an apostate.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography

The Jewish population of France was estimated to be 535,000. Leading Jewish population centers were Paris, Marseilles, Nice, Lyons, and Toulouse.

Communal Activities

The official installation of France's chief rabbi, René Samuel Sirat, took place on April 5 in the Great Paris Synagogue in the rue de la Victoire, in the presence of many political leaders, including President Mitterrand.

In May a series of gatherings and exhibitions celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU, United Jewish Philanthropic Fund).

Among the measures included in the new government's liberalization program was the authorization of radio broadcasts by private stations. An immediate result was the introduction of broadcasts by various groups and organizations. Thus, four programs of a Jewish nature were added to the Jewish religious programs already sponsored for several years by the Consistory and incorporated into state-run broadcasts. One new program, sponsored by FSJU, dealt mostly with political issues, but also broadcast Jewish music, cultural news, interviews with writers and artists, etc. The other three programs covered similar ground, but with different emphases. *Renouveau Juif's* program, for example, was almost exclusively political, and took an adamantly pro-Israel stance. Whereas the old schedule had allotted one hour a week to Jewish affairs, under the more liberal regulations, all Jewish programs were being transmitted daily. Nevertheless, they had only about 20,000 listeners.

Outside the official Jewish community there was a growing effort, inspired in the main by neo-Bundists, to reassert the value of Yiddish language and culture among young people of East European extraction. Residual leftist and, occasionally, anti-Zionist tendencies were discernible in various Yiddish broadcasts, which offered songs, theatrical performances, and folklore.

The Yiddish press was on the way to extinction, as its elderly readers passed from the scene and were not replaced by younger ones. Of the three Yiddish dailies in Paris—Zionist, Bundist, and Communist—not one actually appeared every day. The left-Zionist *Unser Wort* ("Our Word") fared the least badly, simply because it was largely subsidized by Zionist organizations and was directed by a *shaliach*, an

official Israeli representative. The religious Zionist *Unser Weg* ("Our Path") had a small, relatively stable circulation among Jews who wanted to read a good commentary in Yiddish on the biblical portion of the week.

There was an upsurge of interest in Talmudic studies among university intellectuals. Professor Emmanuel Lévinas' Talmud courses attracted a large, attentive audience not limited to religious circles.

The teaching of modern Hebrew in the high schools seemed to have reached a peak and was no longer increasing. Anti-Israel political prejudice in the universities and secondary schools hindered a wider interest in Hebrew, now in competition with Arabic, which was more "up-to-date" both politically and economically.

The 22nd annual colloquium of French-speaking Jewish intellectuals, held in Paris in November, was devoted to the Bible. There were several brilliant presentations, including one by Henri Atlan, the renowned biologist and Talmudist who now lived in Israel, but was still active in Jewish intellectual life in France.

In May, during FSJU's national council meeting, a large group of Jewish intellectuals gathered to discuss the topic "intellectuals and the community." Jacques Attali, advisor to President Mitterrand, moderated the public debate. Among the participants were some who, until then, had never appeared at events connected with Jewish life, e.g., the "critical Communist" Jean Ellenstein, former professor at the Communist party's Institute of Marxist Studies.

Publications

In *Le Spectateur Engagé* ("The Committed Spectator," Julliard), Raymond Aron, one of France's most highly-esteemed political thinkers and journalists, offers a balance-sheet on his life. Among other things, he clarifies the nature of his Jewish outlook.

The reissue of *Amos* (Brin) by Andre Néher renewed interest in the work of this French-Jewish theologian, now residing in Jerusalem. Néher's writings in the post-World War II period were the point of departure for the current renaissance of Jewish culture in France.

The Médici Prize for foreign literature went to Israeli novelist Yoram Kaniuk, whose works, published by Stock, had been very well received by the critics.

Stock published a translation of Martin Buber's *Tales of Rabbi Nachman*.

Even before Elias Canetti won the Nobel Prize for literature, Albin Michel had published his *Les Voix de Marrakech* ("Voices from Marrakesh"), an evocation of the Moroccan city that reflects the author's profound Jewish consciousness.

Far from Paris, in a small village in Midi, four young intellectuals started a publishing house specializing in scientific Judaica. Editions Verdier brought out an excellent French translation of Maimonides' *Guide to the Perplexed*, and followed it with an outstanding French translation of the first part of the Zohar, which took Charles Mopsik eight years to prepare. The Zohar translation, with no publicity at all, sold very well due to an increased interest in Jewish mysticism.

The 1981 prize for literature of the Fondation du Judaïsme Français (Foundation for French Judaism) was awarded to historian Léon Poliakov.

Personalia

George Vajda, the eminent scholar of Hebrew and semitics, died in Paris on Yom Kippur, at the age of 73. He had taught at the rabbinic seminary in Paris and at the École des Haute Études (School for Higher Studies). Vajda was born in Budapest and came to France in 1920.

On April 6, 75-year-old Vladimir Rabinovitch, also known by the literary pseudonym Rabi, was killed in an automobile accident. A chronicler, literary critic, and polemicist, he played an important role in the Finaly affair (a case involving the kidnapping and attempted conversion to Catholicism of two young children of Holocaust victims) after the Liberation. Although once a Zionist in good standing, he became increasingly critical of Israel in his later years.

Julien Samuel, one of the founders and a former director of FSJU, died on September 16, at the age of 69. Born in Alsace, he began his activities on behalf of Jews during the second World War, when he worked semi-clandestinely in Marseilles in a home established by the Organisation de Secours à l'Enfance (Children's Aid Organization). He was among the principal advocates within FSJU of strong support for Jewish cultural institutions. Samuel served as editor-in-chief of the monthly *l'Arche* ("The Ark") until his retirement.

ARNOLD MANDEL