In political and economic terms, 1984 was relatively stable, although not without its share of troubling events. On the economic front, the gross national output rose by 2.6 percent, while the cost-of-living increase—2.4 percent—was the lowest since 1969. Unemployment, however, stood at 9 percent. The slight upward trend of the West German economy was slowed by lengthy strikes during the second quarter of the year.

A scandal involving high government officials plagued the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl throughout much of the year, producing considerable public unrest. Investigations by a parliamentary committee and the public prosecutor led to allegations of bribery, influence peddling, and tax evasion involving the huge Flick industrial concern and major political figures. West German economics minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff resigned in June, just before being indicted for accepting bribes from Flick to arrange tax waivers. (He was succeeded by his Free Democratic party colleague Martin Bangemann.) Bundestag president Rainer Barzel resigned in October, in the wake of similar accusations. (Philipp Jenninger, also a Christian Democratic leader, was elected his successor in November.) Court proceedings were initiated against other leading personalities, in business as well as politics.

In connection with public criticism of Flick's substantial political payoffs, spokesmen for Nazi victims and anti-Nazi groups recalled that the Flick concern had made large donations to the Nazi party and had refused to pay indemnity to World War II slave laborers.

In May former mayor of West Berlin and Christian Democratic leader Richard von Weizsäcker was chosen as the sixth president of the Federal Republic, succeeding Karl Carstens, who had been elected in 1979.

Elections in the Federal Republic for the European Parliament on June 17 saw the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) emerge as the winner with 37.5 percent of the vote, with the Social Democrats (SPD) a close second (37.4 percent), followed by the Christian Social Union (CSU) (8.5 percent), the Greens (8.2 percent), the Free Democrats (FDP) (4.8 percent), the Peace List (1.3 percent), the National
Democratic party (NPD) (0.8 percent), the Center party (0.4 percent), and the Women's party (0.4 percent). In state elections in Baden-Württemberg the CDU won 51.9 percent of the vote, followed by the SPD (32.4 percent), the Greens (8.0 percent), and the FDP (7.2 percent). Elections to the communal parliaments in Bavaria saw the CSU an easy winner, with the SPD a distant second. The CDU was the winner in communal elections in Rhineland-Palatinate, while the SPD won the races in North Rhine-Westphalia and Saarland.

Pacifist groups opposed to the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles in West Germany experienced some loss of impetus over the year, with public support of their cause beginning to dwindle. As a result, the U.S. missile deployment program was able to proceed almost completely unhindered. Public criticism of NATO, U.S. policy, and West Germany's political position was limited in the main to an organized minority made up of SPD and Communist supporters and the Greens. In December the Federal Constitutional Court rejected a complaint by the Greens that the stationing of U.S. nuclear missiles in West Germany violated German law.

The Greens, despite internal strife over political and personal issues, continued to consolidate their position on the federal and state political levels. In June Holger Börner was elected head of the Hesse state government with the support of the Greens, but in November the party withdrew its support.

The 40th anniversary of the plot to kill Hitler was commemorated in July. Chancellor Kohl, paying tribute at a ceremony in West Berlin to the "bravery and righteousness" of the group of plotters, said that the planned assassination showed the world that the German people as a whole had not been Hitler's collaborators. The chancellor and other West German leaders, joined by Howard Friedman, president of the American Jewish Committee, laid wreaths at a memorial for the conspirators executed after the plot's failure. Friedman praised the courage and determination of the plotters and said it was important for American Jews today to acknowledge that from the ruins of an evil regime a free society had arisen, one committed to preserving the values of Western civilization and democratic society. At another ceremony, however, Dr. Albert H. Friedlander, rabbi of the Westminster Synagogue in London, warned against seeing the plotters as representative of the entire German people. In reality, he asserted, the majority had followed Hitler's lead. This viewpoint was echoed at an international conference of historians held in West Berlin on the anniversary of the plot.

Discord among the West German political parties over the proposed bill to punish public denial or minimization of Nazi mass crimes continued to prevent legislative action on the issue.

In the fall, public criticism was voiced over the appointment of former members of the Nazi Waffen-SS to leading positions in the news media and political life. Asked why it was not possible to fill important positions with persons who had not actively supported the Nazi regime, officials offered the opinion that SS membership at age 20 was not sufficient cause to prevent the appointment of men who were otherwise qualified.
In a poll of viewers' reactions to a series of television programs on the Nazi epoch, shown in 1982–1983, about one-third of those who responded to the telephone survey complained of being "overfed" by these programs, voicing concern that too much public attention to the Nazi regime might foster neo-Nazi tendencies. About half of this group of viewers expressed pro-Nazi attitudes, including antisemitic and anti-Israel statements. Of those who expressed their views in writing, about one-fourth made pro-Nazi statements, while over a third welcomed the programs as providing valuable information on an important chapter of German history.

**Extremism**

According to the annual government report on extremism, no dramatic change occurred in the area of domestic security in 1984, or in the membership of extremist organizations. West German interior minister Friedrich Zimmermann, warning that political extremism had to be watched carefully, reiterated the official view that left-wing extremism was far more dangerous than that of the right. During the year, left-wing extremists were responsible for 1,269 acts of violence, including 11 terrorist attacks.

State agencies warned against growing left-wing extremism, which included terrorist acts against NATO bases and nuclear installations on German soil. Leftist groups and individuals committed numerous attacks on U.S. army installations and personnel during the year. Foremost among the groups were the Rote Armee-Fraktion (Red Army Faction, RAF) and the Revolutionäre Zellen (Revolutionary Cells, RZ). At Stuttgart, in May, former RAF member Peter-Jürgen Book was given three lifetime sentences for murders committed in 1977.

Ultraright groups, according to the government, numbered 89, with 22,100 members. The largest organization, the Deutsche Volksunion (German People's Union), led by Gerhard Frey, editor of the weekly *Deutsche National-Zeitung*—whose circulation of 100,000 made it one of Germany's biggest weeklies—increased its membership from 11,000 to 12,000 during the year. The National Democratic party (NPD) had a membership of 6,100.

There were 34 neo-Nazi groups with 1,350 members. Twelve of these groups were composed of former members of the recently outlawed Aktionsfront Nationaler Sozialisten (Action Front of National Socialists, ANS). Half of all the groups had fewer than ten members; most had between 15 and 25. Neo-Nazis were responsible for a total of 1,137 offenses (as against 1,347 in 1983), of which 191 had an antisemitic character.

During the year police seized large quantities of neo-Nazi propaganda material as well as firearms, ammunition, and explosives. Among those arrested was Michael Kühnen, head of the disbanded ANS, who had fled to France but was extradited to West Germany. Among neo-Nazis indicted for various crimes were followers of the American Gary Lauck; they were charged with circulating antidemocratic and antisemitic materials that had been shipped from the United States.
Several hundred members of democratic and antifascist groups demonstrated at the NPD's congress held in Munich in November, at which the 20th anniversary of the party's formation was celebrated. Protests from Germany and abroad did not succeed in halting rallies of former members of the Nazi Waffen-SS, held in various places, including Oberaula and Marktheidenfeld. Social Democratic party chairman Willy Brandt stated that he shared the indignation of those who deplored SS veterans' rallies, since they glorified the Nazi regime and encouraged the revival of Nazism. Other political leaders, while critical of the rallies, defended the participants' constitutional rights of free expression and freedom of assembly. State and municipal agencies claimed they were not authorized to ban such rallies.

At the end of June, over 300 West German neo-Nazis met at Diksmuiden, in Belgium, with some 600 neo-Nazis from Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, and Spain. Most of the Germans belonged to such groups as the NPD and its youth division, Junge Nationaldemokraten (Young National Democrats); the Wiking-Jugend (Viking Youth); the Hilfsorganisation für nationale politische Gefangene und deren Angehörige (Organization in Aid of National Political Prisoners and Their Families), and the ANS. About 40 "skinheads," as well as 20 members of a far-right soccer fan club, "Borussenfront," who tried to join the neo-Nazi rally, were prevented from doing so by the Belgian police. Contacts and sometimes cooperation between "skinheads," "punks," and soccer fans, on the one hand, and neo-Nazi groups on the other, were a growing phenomenon in several West German centers.

According to government sources, foreign extremist groups operating in West Germany had a total of 116,000 members, including about 3,550 Arabs. Palestinian groups were largely inactive in 1984, probably because of internal strife within the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Antisemitism

Jubilee performances of the controversial Passion play staged at the Bavarian village of Oberammergau drew 470,000 spectators from all over the world between May and September. As in the past, the play's producers and the village council rejected charges of antisemitism leveled by Jewish critics. They blamed the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for mounting an international campaign against the religious pageant. The play's organizers insisted that the text had been cleared of all purportedly antisemitic passages and stressed that no more alterations would be made.

Jewish groups criticized as antisemitic and anti-Zionist the film Hotel Polan und seine Gäste ("Hotel Polan and Its Guests"), based on a novel by Jewish author Jan Koplowitz, who also wrote the screenplay. The film, made in East Germany, was purchased for television in the Federal Republic and Austria by the Sender Freies Berlin station, which claimed that all passages thought to be insulting to Jews had
been cut before its screening. Another controversy centered on a stage play, *Ghetto*, written by Israeli author Joshua Sobol and performed by a German cast on a West Berlin stage. The work was judged by Jewish and other circles as unsuitable for German audiences, on the grounds that it could cause confusion about Jewish attitudes under Nazi rule and exonerate Nazi criminals.

At least 28 Jewish cemeteries were desecrated during the year, including those at Mönchengladbach, Hamburg-Ohlsdorf, Tübingen/Reutlingen, Essen, and Fehringen. A small former synagogue at Düsseldorf-Gerresheim was destroyed in a fire set by a 24-year-old neo-Nazi.

A textbook on antisemitism, the first of its kind in the country, was published by the state agency for political education for use in West German schools. The work was prepared by the Center for Research on Antisemitism, which was established in 1982 at the West Berlin Technical University and was headed by Herbert A. Strauss of New York.

Following antisemitic incidents at the West Berlin police college, visits to Nazi concentration-camp sites were incorporated in the curriculum. The aim was to broaden students’ knowledge of the Nazi period and reduce anti-Jewish attitudes.

**Nazi Trials**

At the start of 1984, West German legal authorities were investigating 1,542 persons suspected of involvement in Nazi crimes, and were carrying out preliminary investigations of another 110 cases. According to the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes at Ludwigsburg, since the end of World War II, West German prosecutors had investigated more than 88,000 suspects, of whom 6,469 were convicted and received sentences. In February Adalbert Rückerl, head of the agency since 1966, was succeeded by chief prosecutor Alfred Streim.

The number of court proceedings against Nazi suspects continued to drop, due in large measure to the aging and failing health of the accused, poor memory on the part of witnesses, and lack of evidence. As a result, an increasing number of proceedings ended in acquittal.

*Landau*: In June 72-year-old former police officer Albert Eichelis was sentenced to six years in prison for the murder of Jews in Latvia.

*Fulda*: In February 74-year-old former concentration-camp inmate Hermann Ebender was acquitted of the murder of 17 Jewish prisoners.

*Heidelberg*: In October Clemens Druschke, former Gestapo chief at Jesenice in Yugoslavia, was acquitted of the murder of a Yugoslav partisan by torture.

*Itzehoe*: In March 75-year-old former concentration-camp inmate Kurt Vogel was acquitted of the attempted murder of three fellow prisoners.

*Bonn*: In April a local court stopped proceedings against 66-year-old former doctor Helmut Rühl, for complicity in the murder of concentration-camp prisoners by medical experiments, on account of the accused’s ill health.
Frankfurt: In June the local high court stopped the state’s case against 72-year-old former SS sergeant Hubert Gomerski, for health reasons. Convicted in 1950 of the murder of Jewish prisoners at Sobibor and sentenced to life imprisonment, Gomerski was released in 1973 and given a retrial. This ended with a 15-year prison sentence which was subsequently annulled by the West German supreme court. A third trial, in 1981, was stopped because of Gomerski’s ill health.

Oldenburg: In July the local high court refused to permit the start of court proceedings against 75-year-old former security police chief at Angers, France, Hans-Dietrich Ernst, because of insufficient evidence and the failing health of the accused. Ernst had been charged with complicity in the deportation and murder of 824 French Jews.

Hamburg: In April retrial began before a local jury of 69-year-old former Gestapo official Harri Schulz, who was charged with the murder of seven Jews and complicity in the murder of over 5,000 Jews deported to Auschwitz.

Düsseldorf: In August retrial opened of 67-year-old Heinz-Günter Wisner, former SS chief sergeant and medical aide at the Riga-Kaiserwald concentration camp, who was charged as an accomplice in the murder of at least five Jewish prisoners. In 1983 a local jury had sentenced Wisner to six years in prison for these offenses, but the sentence had been annulled by the West German supreme court.

Bochum: In November, at the local trial of 68-year-old Helmut Georg Krizons, former officer in the Jewish affairs department of the Gestapo in Lodz, Poland, the public prosecutor demanded eight and a half years of imprisonment for complicity in the murder of thousands of Jews.

Karlsruhe: In June the local West German supreme court rejected appeals by seven former SS guards who had been convicted of atrocities at the Majdanek concentration camp in Poland by a Düsseldorf jury in 1981. Five men and a woman who had been sentenced to prison terms of 3 to 12 years had based their appeals on alleged procedural errors. The seventh convict, Hermine Ryan-Braunsteiner, who became a U.S. citizen after the war, had claimed that the court lacked jurisdiction because she was no longer a German citizen. She had been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. In November West German television networks screened a five-hour documentary on the Majdanek trial, showing the proceedings in detail.

In May 77-year-old former SS colonel Walter Rauff, who had been sought by West German authorities for the murder of 97,000 Jews in mobile gas chambers, died in Santiago, Chile, of lung cancer. He had lived in Chile since 1958, protected against West German, French, and Israeli extradition requests by Chile’s statute of limitations.

Arthur Rudolph, a 78-year-old former rocket and space-aviation expert and postwar U.S. citizen, left the United States in March and relinquished U.S. citizenship in May, after publication of charges that he had tormented Jewish slave laborers in a Nazi rocket factory. Rudolph was one of a group of 118 Nazi rocket experts
who came to the United States after the war; he became director of the Saturn V program. Rudolph denied ever having been involved in Nazi brutality, and West German legal authorities announced that they as yet had no incriminating evidence against him.

In September the West Berlin prosecutor completed the indictment against Paul Reimers, a former judge at the infamous Nazi People's Court, charging him with murder for his part in numerous death sentences handed down by that court. The ex-judge committed suicide a short time after.

**Foreign Affairs**

On the occasion of the visit to Bonn in October of Hosni Mubarak, president of Egypt, Chancellor Kohl promised the European community's assistance in helping the parties involved in the Middle East conflict to resume peace negotiations. At the same time, the German leader rejected Soviet plans for a Middle East conference under United Nations' auspices as unrealistic, since both Israel and the United States were against it. Kohl voiced his hope that the new Israeli government of Shimon Peres would help advance peace efforts, and welcomed the resumption of diplomatic ties between Egypt and Jordan. Kohl also said he was convinced that withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon would improve the political climate in the region and ease the way for new peace moves. Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher reaffirmed the official West German position calling for Palestinian self-determination, including establishment of a national home.

West German arms exports to Saudi Arabia and other Arab states remained a controversial issue both on the domestic scene and internationally. Among those protesting possible arms deliveries to the Arabs were SPD and church leaders, the German-Israel Society, other groups active in German-Israeli relations, and noted publisher Axel Springer. Israeli political leaders also appealed to the Bonn government not to allow the sale of arms to the enemies of the Jewish state. In March meetings between Chancellor Kohl and leading representatives of Jewish organizations in the United States, the German chancellor promised that arms sales would be limited to defensive weapons and that precautions would be taken so that no arms would fall into the hands of radical Arab states or Arab terrorists. Later in the year, Chancellor Kohl announced that West Germany's most modern tank, the Leopard II, would not be sold to any state outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Answering a query by the Greens in March, the government could not explain how small arms of West German make, seized by Israeli troops in Lebanon in 1983, had come into Palestinian hands. The Greens charged that the government had lost control over arms exports, pointing out that Saudi Arabia had refused to accept any restrictions on the use of arms supplied by West Germany. Another infringement of government policy was revealed when, following U.S. intervention, the West German trade ministry suspended the sale of 30,000 bullet-proof jackets by a West
German firm to Syria—a transaction that had already received the ministry's approval.

Relations with Israel

Relations between the Federal Republic and Israel were highlighted by Chancellor Kohl's visit to the Jewish state on January 24–29, which began with a ceremony at Yad Vashem and included extensive talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other political leaders. Kohl reiterated his government's support for Palestinian self-determination and for the security of all nations in the region. Criticizing as barriers to peace both Israel's settlement activity in the occupied areas and the Arab refusal to recognize the Jewish state, the chancellor called upon all parties to the conflict to agree to direct peace talks.

In a statement to the federal parliament upon his return to West Germany, Chancellor Kohl said he had gone to Israel as a friend and left the country as a friend, and hoped to build continued cooperation, particularly among the younger generations of both countries. "Behind ourselves and Israel stands a horrible past for which we Germans bear a historic responsibility. But behind us also stands the achievement of patient development of contacts, relations and ties which was begun by Konrad Adenauer and David Ben-Gurion and carried on by all federal governments. . . ."

In parliamentary debate that followed Kohl's statement the coalition parties hailed his determination to strive for good relations with both Israel and the Arab states. CDU/CSU faction leader Alfred Dregger thanked Kohl for not having bowed to "unobjective pressure" from Israel with regard to German arms sales. Speakers for the opposition parties, however, sharply criticized Kohl's stand on the arms-export issue, as well as statements made by him in Israel on historical and political questions, charging him with insensitivity to sentiment within the Jewish state. Both SPD and Greens speakers questioned the inclusion of 72-year-old Kurt Ziesel in Kohl's entourage, because of his past as a pro-Nazi journalist. The chancellor responded that Ziesel had made a fresh start after the war and repented his Nazi past.

German-Israeli cooperation continued to flourish on many levels, as evidenced by a stream of visitors to Israel and by the holding of numerous joint conferences. Among German visitors to the Jewish state were: federal agriculture minister Ignaz Kiechle, to discuss agricultural cooperation; federal research and technology minister Heinz Riesenhuber, to consider ways of extending and consolidating scientific cooperation; federal education minister Dorothee Wilms, to review occupational education programs; head of the Baden-Württemberg state government Lothar Späth, for talks on political and economic issues; a delegation of the FDP to attend the World Congress of Liberal Parties in Tel Aviv; and General Dietrich Genschel of the federal defense ministry, to study military operations, particularly women's integration into the armed forces.
A delegation of the Greens party interested in Israeli policy in the occupied areas also visited the country. Expressing support for their hosts, the Jewish-Arab Progressive Peace list, the Greens rejected charges of antisemitism, stressing that they were against all forms of racism.

The Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft (German-Israel Society, DIG) and its Israeli counterpart met for a four-day conference with about 200 participants in Bonn in November. Earlier in the year, the two groups and their partner organizations, the Austrian-Israel Society and the Swiss-Israel Society, at a meeting in Vienna, denounced efforts to equate Zionism with racism and colonialism, and asked their respective governments to resist defamation of the Jewish state by international bodies. The meeting also called upon the Egyptian government to resume talks with Israel on Palestinian autonomy.

Problematic aspects of German-Jewish and German-Israeli relations, past and present, were discussed at several academic and professional meetings: a conference of German and Israeli historians at the newly established Institute for German History and Culture at Haifa University; a gathering of German and Israeli experts at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; and a conference of German, Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian publicists, scientists, and artists at the Evangelische Akademie Arnoldshain. A symposium on youth exchange programs was sponsored by the Evangelical church in the Rhineland, at Bendorf. In addition to government-financed exchange programs, which by the end of 1984 had enabled over 70,000 youths to visit Israel and Germany, there were a growing number of privately arranged exchange programs.

Cooperation between West Germany and Israel in science and technology continued to expand. Cooperative agreements were concluded between the Haifa Technion and Berlin Technical University, Tel Aviv University and Munich University, and the Hebrew University and Hamburg University. During his visit to the Hebrew University in January, Chancellor Kohl announced the establishment of a Bonn-financed chair in international finance and politics, named for former German-Jewish economist and jurist Carl Melchior. The Volkswagenwerk Foundation donated one million DM to the Weizmann Institute of Science in honor of the 50th anniversary of the institute's founding.

Israeli enterprises were represented at numerous international trade fairs in the Federal Republic. The West Berlin film company Chronos-Film donated 50 hours of film documenting the history of European Jewry in the first half of this century to the Nahum Goldmann Museum in Tel Aviv, Israel's State Film Archives, the Ghetto Fighters' House, and Israel television.

The number of German tourists to the Jewish state rose by 20 percent in 1984, to over 130,000, making Germany first among European countries in tourism to Israel.

Yad Vashem again honored a number of West German citizens as "Righteous Gentiles," some of them posthumously, for their role in the rescue of persecuted Jews: Jean Jülich, Bartholomäus Schink, Michael Jovy, Konrad David, Käthe

**JEWISH COMMUNITY**

**Demography**

On January 1, 1984, the 65 local Jewish communities in the Federal Republic and West Berlin had 27,791 members—14,193 males and 13,598 females. A year later the communities registered 27,561 members—14,024 males and 13,537 females. An additional 25,000 unaffiliated Jews were estimated to be living in the Federal Republic and West Berlin.

In 1984 the Central Welfare Agency of Jews in Germany, located in Frankfurt, recorded 361 immigrants and 305 emigrants, 69 births and 377 deaths, and 35 conversions to Judaism. The largest Jewish communities, as of January 1, 1985, were West Berlin (6,177), Frankfurt (4,784), Munich (4,019), Dusseldorf (1,659), Hamburg (1,373), and Cologne (1,222).

**Communal Activities**

Calling the Jewish community a “small but loyal” part of German society, the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland (Central Council of Jews in Germany) emphasized in its annual Rosh Hashanah message the basically positive outlook for Jewish life in postwar Germany. At the same time, the council underscored the need for eternal vigilance to guard against antisemitism and extremism. Two additional themes sounded in the message were the importance of passing on Jewish knowledge and the Jewish way of life to the young, and unfailing love and support for Israel.

During the year, communal representatives from all parts of the country convened at two plenary meetings of the Central Council to discuss a broad array of subjects. The council’s seventh Youth and Culture Congress at Mannheim brought together over 200 young Jews, including guests from other European countries and Israel. Adult Jewish representatives at the gathering expressed dismay at the lack of interest in Jewish life shown by many young Jews. Several communities organized special dialogues between groups of parents and young people to analyze the situation and suggest ways to improve it.

A four-day seminar on the Holocaust and its aftermath was organized for youth leaders by the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the World Zionist Organization in conjunction with the British Zionist Federation Education Trust; it was held in Munich. Youths from all parts of the country attended a symposium on Middle East events that was sponsored by the Zionist Youth Organization in West Berlin. Young Jews from Germany and other German-language countries attended a seminar on problems of Jewish identity at Grindelwald in Switzerland.
The Bundesverband Jüdischer Studenten in Deutschland (Union of Jewish Students in Germany, BJSD) continued to expand its activities and established several new local branches. Among the activities were seminars on various aspects of Jewish life, actions against antisemitic and anti-Israel propaganda, demonstrations in support of Soviet Jews, and publication of the periodical *Cheschbon*.

A truly historic occasion was the Maccabiah that took place in April, the first to be held in Germany since before World War II. Over 300 members of nine Maccabiah groups from various West German centers participated in the event at Augsburg. Willi Weyer, president of the Deutscher Sportbund (German Sports Union), and Franz Josef Strauss, head of the Bavarian state government, saw in the event a symbol of Jewish renewal in Germany. The Munich Maccabiah club, the most successful in the competition, received a special award from the federal interior ministry. To many observers the Munich victory seemed to have symbolic significance, as it called to mind the massacre of Israeli athletes by Arab terrorists at the 1972 Olympics. In September that tragic event was commemorated by the City of Munich and the Jewish community there.

Moshe Elat, professor of Jewish history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was appointed rector of the Academy for Jewish Studies at Heidelberg, succeeding Shemaryahu Talmon, also of the Hebrew University. The academy also cooperated with Jewish institutions in the United States.

At the invitation of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a group of former soldiers of the U.S. 442nd Regiment, which had liberated Dachau in April 1945, visited the site of the former Nazi concentration camp there.

A new Jewish community center opened in Nuremberg in September, and the cornerstone for a new center was laid in Frankfurt in November. Also in November, the Jewish community center on Fasanenstrasse in West Berlin and the synagogue in the Ruhr city of Essen celebrated the 25th anniversaries of their opening.

**Christian-Jewish Cooperation**

On the occasion of Rosh Hashanah 5745, West German president Richard von Weizsäcker, president of the Bundestag (federal parliament) Rainer Barzel, Chancellor Kohl, and other political as well as religious leaders sent messages to the Jewish community praising Jewish contributions to German life and underlining support of the State of Israel. Annemarie Renger, SPD vice-president of the Bundestag and head of the pro-Israel group of German parliamentarians, thanked Jewish citizens for their readiness to stretch out their hands in reconciliation, despite their awareness of past horrors.

During the year, various Christian groups met to evaluate their roles during the Nazi period and their relations with Jews and Judaism in the present. Former Berlin bishop Kurt Scharf, a noted Evangelical church leader in postwar Germany, criticized Christians for failing to stem the rise of antisemitism. The West Berlin synod of the Evangelical church issued a paper acknowledging the Christian role in the
Holocaust, recalling the common origins of Christians and Jews, and promising to work for a new understanding with Jews in both Germany and Israel. For the first time, the organization of West German Baptists criticized its own behavior during the Nazi period, stating, "It grieves us that we often succumbed to the ideological enticement of that time and did not evince more courage in professing truth and justice."

The German Catholic Congress held in Munich in July included speeches, workshops, and symposia dealing with aspects of the Jewish religion, Christian antisemitism before and during the Nazi period, and Christian-Jewish understanding. Christian and Jewish participants held joint religious services, and the Munich Jewish community gave a reception for leading Catholic representatives at the congress.

The theme of 1984 brotherhood week, organized by the German Coordinating Council of Associations for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and its affiliates in all parts of the country, was "Jewish Heritage in Germany—Message and Challenge." The Coordinating Council's 1984 Buber and Rosenzweig Medal, presented at a televised ceremony held in Worms on March 11, went to DDR citizens Siegfried Arndt, a Protestant pastor, and Helmut Eschwege, a Jewish historian, for their personal contributions to Christian-Jewish dialogue and cooperation. Rabbi Henry G. Brandt, Rev. Eckhard von Nordheim, and Father Hans Hermann Henrix were elected new joint chairmen of the council.

The Institute of Contemporary History at Munich started a comprehensive research and documentation project on the history of German Jews during the Nazi era. The state agency for political education in Baden-Württemberg held a seminar on Jewish and Israeli issues for non-Jewish teachers and educators. The Holocaust was the subject of an international meeting of historians, with Israeli, British, and German participants, held at Stuttgart in May. The conference was arranged by the local university, the Library of Contemporary History, and the German Committee of the International Society for the History of World War II. Germania Judaica, the library of German-Jewish history in Cologne, with 34,000 volumes, celebrated its 25th anniversary. It had been awarded the 1983 Walter Meckauer medal for furthering German-Jewish understanding. The 1984 Meckauer medal went to the New York German-language weekly Aufbau ("Reconstruction").

Exhibitions shown in various West German centers during the year dealt with the history of Jews in Cologne, Badenia, Württemberg, and Hanover as well as with other Jewish subjects. In Worms, the 950th anniversary of Germany's oldest synagogue was marked by two exhibitions, one on the history of the famous local Jewish community, the other on Jewish contributions to German literature and science, both arranged by the Worms municipality. A history of Jewish Worms was published for the anniversary, and a commemorative coin showing the Rashi Synagogue was offered for sale by a local savings bank.

Exhibits relating to the German-Jewish literary historian Walter A. Berendsohn and to composer Richard Wagner and his relations with Jews were presented. An
exhibit of special interest featured photographs of the Warsaw ghetto taken by a Nazi soldier, Joe J. Heydecker. Jewish sections were opened in the Berlin Museum and the museum of the Hesse provincial town of Hofgeismar. An international symposium on Jewish and Christian art in the Middle Ages was held at Wolfenbüttel. A seminar on "Jews in Books for Children and Adolescents since 1750" was arranged by the German Academy of Child and Youth Literature at Volkach. Jewish cultural and film weeks were arranged at Frankfurt and Erlangen, and a Yiddish song festival was held in Wuppertal.

The European premiere of the documentary film Genocide, produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles, took place at the Dachau camp memorial site in May.

A delegation from the American Jewish Committee, headed by president Howard Friedman, visited the Federal Republic at the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Bonn. The group held extensive talks with non-Jewish and Jewish representatives.

B'nai B'rith's gold medal for "distinguished leadership and services to humanity" was conferred on leading German industrialist Rolf Rodenstock, president of the Union of German Industries.

For helping to rescue persecuted Jews during the Nazi regime, the Service Cross of the German Order of Merit was awarded to Carola Müller, Ilse Schwersensky, and Gerhard Schwersensky. Jews, Catholics, and Protestants honored Oskar Schindler, the late German rescuer of over 1,200 Jews, at a ceremony in Frankfurt.

A Raoul Wallenberg Committee was set up in Düsseldorf to help clarify the fate of the Swedish diplomat and to publicize his rescue work.

Publications


New titles in the fields of literature and biography included Reinhard Bendix, Von Berlin nach Berkeley: Deutsch-jüdische Identitäten (“From Berlin to Berkeley: German-Jewish Identities”; Suhrkamp); Wilhelm Unger, Wofür ist das ein Zeichen? Auswahl aus veröffentlichten und unveröffentlichten Werken des Kritikers und Autors (“What Does This Signify? A Selection of Published and Unpublished Texts by the Critic and Author”; DuMont); Renate Heuer, Bibliographia Judaica: Verzeichnis jüdischer Autoren deutscher Sprache (“Bibliographia Judaica: A Catalog of German-Language Jewish Authors”; Campus); Leo Nadelmann, Jüdische Erzählungen von Mendele Moycher Sforim, Jitzhak Leib Perez, Sholem Alejchem (“Yiddish Stories by Mendele Mocher Sforim, Yitzhak Leib Peretz, Sholem Aleichem”; Manesse); Thomas B. Schumann, Asphaltliteratur: 45 Aufsätze und Hinweise zu im Dritten Reich verfemten und verfolgten Autoren (“Asphalt Literature: 45 Essays and Annotations on Authors Outlawed and Persecuted in the Third Reich”; Guhl); Sidney Alexander, Marc Chagall: Eine Biographie (“Marc Chagall: A Biography”; Kindler); Rose Ausländer, Hügel/aus Äther/unwiderruflich: Gedichte und Prosa 1966 bis 1975 (“Hills/Of Ether/Irrevocable: Poems and Prose 1966–1975”; Fischer); Rose Ausländer, Im Aschenregen/die Spur deines Namens: Gedichte und Prosa 1976 (“In the Rain of Ashes/The Trace of Your Name: Poems and Prose 1976”; Fischer); Berndt W. Wessling, Max Brod: Ein Portrait zum 100.Geburtstag (“Max Brod: A Portrait on His 100th Birthday”; Bleicher); Ruth Dinesen and

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Robert M.W. Kempner, 85, Frankfurt lawyer and former U.S. deputy prosecutor-general at the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal, received the Great Service Cross with star and ribbon of the West German Federal Order of Merit, the country’s highest honor. Max Kampelman, U.S. diplomat and former head of the U.S. delegation at the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, received the Great Service Cross with star. Adolph Lowe, 91, a founder of the New School for Social Research (University in Exile) in New York, who returned to Germany in 1983, received the Great Service Cross of Merit.

Israeli citizens awarded the Great Service Cross for their contributions to German-Israeli understanding were: Akiva Lewinsky, treasurer of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization; Ernest J. Japhet, chairman of the board of the Bank Leumi; and Joseph Cohn, director of the European office of the Weizmann Institute of Sciences, in Zurich. The Federal Service Cross was awarded to Yehudit Huebner, Israeli diplomat; Nissan Harpaz, Jerusalem Histadrut secretary-general; Raya Jaglom, president of the Women’s International Zionist Organization (WIZO); Shalom Levin, president of the Israeli teachers’ union; Yehuda Erel, head of Tel Aviv’s municipal department for international affairs and tourism; Adin Talbar, cofounder of the Israeli-German Chamber of Commerce and founder of the Jerusalem section of the Israeli-German Society; Eliahu Ben-Yehuda, who had been active in the field of Israeli-German youth exchange; and journalist and historian Werner David Melchior.

The Service Cross was also awarded to Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich, philosopher, author, and director of the European district of B’nai B’rith, in Switzerland; Julius Spokojny, head of the Jewish community in Augsburg; Oskar Althausen, leader of the Mannheim Jewish community; Jakob Safier, prominent member of the Munich
Jewish community; Jakob J. Petuchowski, professor of Jewish-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio; and Rolf Simon, journalist and author, of San Francisco, California.

American historian and author Walter Laqueur received the 1984 Award for Literature and the Fine Arts given by InterNationes, a Bonn state institution promoting international relations. Marcel Reich-Ranicki, journalist, author, and literary editor of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung since 1973, received the Goethe Medal of the Frankfurt municipality. The state-financed Andreas Gryphius Prize was awarded to Dresden-born poet, author, critic, and translator Hans Sahl, in New York. The 1984 literary prize of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts was awarded to poet Rose Ausländer, of Düsseldorf.

Alfred Weichselbaum, director of the Central Welfare Agency of Jews in Germany at Frankfurt and a leading figure in postwar German-Jewish life, died on February 8, 1984, at the age of 61.

Friedo Sachser
Of the 600 registered Jews living in the German Democratic Republic (DDR), 200 were in East Berlin and the balance in Dresden, Halle, Karl-Marx-Stadt, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Schwerin, and Erfurt. There were thought to be several thousand other Jews in East Germany who were not affiliated with the organized Jewish communities. About two-thirds of the Jews in the DDR were over 60 years of age.

The East Berlin community, without a rabbi or cantor since 1969, received help in ritual matters from the West Berlin community and from Jewish communities in other Soviet bloc countries, particularly for high holy day services. The only kosher slaughterhouse in the country, located in East Berlin, brought a shohet from Budapest every fortnight to slaughter meat—not only for the Jewish community but also for Seventh Day Adventists and Muslim diplomats living in East Berlin.

Financial support from the East German government amounting to M 170,000 was used by the East Berlin Jewish community for cultural and social activities and for the maintenance of the only Jewish home for the aged in the DDR. Maintenance of Jewish cemeteries in East Berlin, including the Weissensee—with 115,000 graves the largest in Europe—was financed by an additional M 150,000. The activities of the remaining Jewish communities were financed by the state with an additional sum of approximately M 250,000.

On the occasion of the 35th-anniversary celebration of the establishment of the DDR, in October, Jewish representatives expressed pride in being citizens of a country where they could live unmolested and loyal to their faith. Helmut Aris, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the DDR, stressed the communities' sense of security and their awareness that fascism, antisemitism, and war-mongering had no breeding ground in the DDR. In a message to Mr. Aris on the occasion of the Jewish New Year, the DDR government praised the Jewish community for its active participation in the successful upbuilding of the socialist state.

On the 40th anniversary of the anti-Hitler plot, DDR representatives laid a wreath paying homage "to the victims of July 20, 1944" at the memorial site of the former Nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen. A wreath was laid on the same site by the head of the West German diplomatic standing mission in East Berlin, Hans Otto Bräutigam. In September a museum documenting opposition to the Nazi regime opened on the site of the former Nazi concentration camp at Ravensbrück, the women's camp where more than 92,000 women and children perished.

The community welcomed a number of foreign visitors, including German-born U.S. rabbi Ernest Lorge, who conducted Rosh Hashanah services at the Rykestrasse
synagogue in East Berlin. Services were conducted there in May by Rabbi Zalman Schachter, who came with a delegation from Temple University in Philadelphia, together with rabbis Alan Mittleman and Lewis Eron and Christian representatives.

Kurt Cohn, member of the East Berlin Jewish community and a former judge of the DDR supreme court, received the state’s highest honor, the Golden Star of Friendship Between Nations. Karin Mylius, head of the Jewish community in Halle, received the Fatherland’s Order of Merit in Bronze. From the hands of West Berlin Jewish leader Heinz Galinski, Marie Grünberg of East Berlin received the Yad Vashem medal and citation, “Righteous Gentile.” On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the murder of writer and politician Erich Mühsam at the Oranienburg concentration camp, the DDR publishing house Volk und Welt released a volume of hitherto unknown texts by the author, Pamphlets & Literary Leftovers.

The DDR continued its anti-Israel, pro-Arab policy. State and party chief Erich Honecker, at a reception for Farouk Al-Khaddoumi, head of the political section of the Palestine Liberation Organization, called the PLO “the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.” Cooperation between the DDR and the PLO was underscored by Honecker’s meeting with Yasir Arafat in Bucharest in August. DDR criticism of Israeli policy was voiced before international agencies debating Middle East issues, particularly the United Nations.

FRIEDO SACHSER