

South Africa

International Relations

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS greatly influenced the fortunes of South Africa from January 1975 to spring 1976, affecting Jews as much as every other sector of the population. The pressures, especially at the United Nations, gave additional momentum to the persistent campaign spearheaded by the Communists, Arabs, and Third World to isolate and to impose grave sanctions on South Africa. The great majority of General Assembly members voted in favor of its expulsion from the organization, but the move was vetoed by the United States, Britain, and France when the matter came before the Security Council. These Western powers were motivated not only by their belief in the universality principle of the UN Charter, but also by their recognition that South Africa had declared its aim to move away from racial discrimination.

Another very significant development has been the détente policy pursued by South Africa in the hope of normalizing its relations with African states, especially those in the southern half of the continent. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Balthazar J. Vorster South Africa has made known that it is and wishes to be accepted as part of Africa, throwing in its lot with the countries of black Africa and playing its part in shaping their common destinies. The policy is being continued, both openly and quietly, despite the failure of the initiative taken by Vorster, in consultation with President Kenneth D. Kaunda of Zambia and Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana, and President Julius K. Nyerere of Tanzania, to promote a constitutional settlement between whites and blacks in Rhodesia.

Equally crucial have been the steps taken in promoting in South West Africa discussions and negotiations aimed at achieving a constitutional settlement. Despite United Nations pressure on South Africa to withdraw completely from Namibia (formerly South West Africa) and immediately grant it complete independence, there appeared to be some readiness to await the outcome of the constitutional discussions.

The importance of these initiatives was underlined by the dramatic events following the withdrawal of Portugal from its colonial territories of Mozambique and Angola, whose future relations with South Africa, whether friendly or not, will have a vital bearing on South Africa's security. By early February 1976 some measure of accommodation with Mozambique appeared to have been achieved. As for An-

gola, the full story of South Africa's role was in dispute. South Africa claimed that its military intervention was not motivated by a wish to take sides in the civil war between the three groups, MPLA, NFLA, and UNITA; that its sole objective was to protect legitimate South African interests, especially the Calueque Dam on the Kunene River located in Ovambo, close to the South West African border with Angola. The dam is part of a hydro-electric scheme undertaken in partnership with Portugal, which is of great importance to the future of the Ovambos. South Africa also wished to be in a position to prevent guerrilla incursions by hostile elements across the South West Africa border. While some of these issues were being disputed, it was clear that they constituted a challenge for South African security.

Concurrently, South Africa contended with serious, rising inflation. This was at first mitigated by the sharp increase in the price of gold, one of the country's main exports. But because of the lowered gold price and other factors, the government eventually felt compelled to devalue the country's currency by 17.9 per cent. At the same time it launched a campaign to combat inflation in cooperation with major economic interests in the country.

Relations with Israel

The close bonds between South Africa and Israel grew still stronger, influenced both by international factors and the recognition by the two governments that fostering closer ties was in their mutual interest. The fortunes of the two countries have become strangely interwoven, particularly because they have been coupled together in attacks at the United Nations branding them "racists" (despite the great differences in their respective situations and policies).

Beyond that, however, the comment by the pro-government paper *Beeld* (June 19, 1975) on the occasion of Minister of Information Connie Mulder's visit to Israel reflected common thinking: Both countries, it said, had much in common on the "Biblical-historical level." The opening of the Suez Canal created a new situation for both from the security point of view. Israel had raised its diplomatic representation in South Africa to the level of an embassy, and the South African consulate in Tel Aviv was similarly elevated in December. "Generally," the paper held, "it is an altogether interesting development of a friendship between two small nations, who more than any other western countries, have cause to be on their guard against the communist strategy."

There has been regular and sympathetic coverage of news from Israel in the South African press and on the radio. Editorial comment reflected good insight into Israel's problems and also a pro-Israel attitude. The United Nations resolution, which stigmatized Zionism as "racism," evoked sharp criticism from the press as well as from intellectual leaders and academic personnel. Meetings of protest held by the Jewish community were fully reported in the press and on the radio.

Measures were taken to promote reciprocal trade between the two countries. The Israel Ministry of Trade declared South Africa to be "a preferred export target" (i.e.,

an export destination which holds best prospects of development and expansion). The South Africa-Israel Chamber of Economic Relations, with offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg, has been promoting increased trade in both directions during the four years of its existence. Its chairman was Bennie Wainstein. Among a number of top Israeli businessmen who visited South Africa during the year were Carmel Hacoheh, executive vice-president of Zim Israel Navigation Company, and General Meir Amit, head of the Koor Industries. Major links between the countries were reportedly being forged by partnership schemes in a variety of important enterprises, including an Israeli construction plant to desalinate sea water for drinking and irrigation use. A regular interchange of scientists was planned.

Prominent visitors from Israel included Yosef Tekoah, former Israeli ambassador at the UN, who inaugurated the Israeli United Appeal; Yosef Almogi, then mayor of Haifa and Knesset member, who signed a "twin-city" agreement for cooperation between Haifa and Cape Town; 'Moekie' Katz, South African-born Israeli writer and publisher, former member of the Knesset, author of *Battle Ground*, who came on a lecture tour. The Rev. Claude Duvernoy, a Protestant priest and Israeli citizen, sought to promote pro-Israel understanding, particularly among church audiences and non-Jewish institutions. Rabbi A. Katzir, senior chaplain to the paratroops and infantry of the Israel Defense Forces, met religious groups in the South African defense forces.

Among the visitors from South Africa to Israel were Gerald Browne, the South African secretary of finance; Japie Basson, deputy leader of the United party, and a group of scientists led by Dr. C. G. Cilliers, director of the National Institute for Water Research, which attended a symposium in Jerusalem on the recycling of waste water. Visitors earlier in the year were Dr. L. van der Merwe Brink, president of the South African Council for Scientific and Medical Research, and Piet Cillie, editor of *Die Burger*.

Israel's consul-general in Johannesburg, Aryeh Bustan, returned to Israel after completing his tour of duty. As poet and author his contribution to the cultural life of Johannesburg was particularly appreciated. He was succeeded by Matityahu Dagan, former consul-general in London and in the United States.

A new extradition treaty was signed between Israel and South Africa. Requests by South Africa for the extradition of alleged criminals who had sought asylum in Israel had not been granted under the old treaty because it had failed to conform to all the conditions of Israeli law.

An important development in furthering South Africa-Israel relations took place in April 1976. Following a visit to Israel by Prime Minister Vorster and Foreign Minister Hilgard Muller, a program was announced to further economic, scientific and industrial cooperation. It envisages interchange of scientific and industrial know-how, and the joint utilization of South African raw material and of Israeli manpower for major projects. Implementation of the program will be supervised by a joint ministerial committee, meeting at least once a year. In their announcement, the Prime Ministers of South Africa and Israel each declared support for the efforts

which the other was making to promote regional dialogue and the cause of peace. They emphasised that cooperation does not necessarily imply endorsement of the other country's policies (see also p. 120). The developments have generally been welcomed both in Israel and in South Africa. They are expected to bring substantial benefits to both countries. After Vorster's return, a dinner was given in Cape Town in his honor by the South African Zionist Federation and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

"Terrorist" Attack on Israel Consulate

An extraordinary event that made world headlines and virtually brought life to a standstill in Johannesburg was an attack, on April 28, on the Israel consulate on Fox Street in the center of Johannesburg. Rumors were rampant that allegedly Japanese and Lebanese "terrorists" forcibly entered the consulate and took hostage a large number of officials and others. There was machine-gun fire from the consulate building and people in the streets were injured. Police and sharpshooters surrounded the buildings as onlookers crowded the streets and brought traffic in the area to a complete standstill. In the late afternoon, the Prime Minister informed parliament of the facts as he knew them, and stated that under no circumstances would the government give in to the demands of the terrorists. Intermittent shooting continued until the early hours of the next morning.

Only after the incident had lasted some 28 hours was the public informed that there were in fact no foreign terrorists; that a South-Africa born Jewish consulate employee, 26-year-old David Protter who had been engaged for certain security duties, was responsible for the episode in which Giora Raviv, the vice-consul in charge of security at the consulate, was killed and 45 others were wounded. Protter and his 19-year-old brother Charles, who had also had some part in the drama, were brought to trial, which lasted four weeks. David was found guilty, with extenuating circumstances, of Raviv's murder as well as 18 charges of kidnapping, 44 charges of assault with intent to murder, and three charges under the Arms and Ammunitions Laws. David was sentenced to a total of 59 years imprisonment on all the charges, the terms on the various charges to run concurrently so that he will serve 25 years in all. Charles, charged with kidnapping and the unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition, was sentenced to five years in prison, but the sentence was reduced by half, conditional on three years' good conduct after his release.

The court accepted David's contention that his prime motive was the desire to demonstrate the inefficiency of security measures in the Johannesburg consulate. In the light of testimony regarding David Protter's career and personality, the court found him to be a "clinical psychopath," which it considered a mitigating factor in the murder charge. Not for many years had a trial so completely captured the public interest. There was much sympathy for the personal aspects of the tragedy, for the brothers and for the victims of the episode alike.

Political and Civic

International developments affecting South Africa resulted in an intensification of political ferment within the country. There was much debate in the press and in political, religious, and academic circles as the country searched for a practical policy to safeguard the rights and reconcile the interests and aspirations of all the sections of its multiracial population.

Jews made their contribution, a not inconsiderable one, to the political and civic life of the country in terms of their individual ideological and political affiliations. As a spokesman for the South African Jewish Board of Deputies said at the plenary assembly of the World Jewish Congress in February, "We have a relatively good record as a community. . . . In the new climate of South African life we believe and hope that our activities will increase manifestly. Already we have begun to think in terms of broader inter-group contacts at levels where dialogue becomes possible."

Jews have taken part in political and civic life as individual citizens, not as a group. In February 1975 Harry Schwartz, a controversial figure in the United party for some years (AJYB, 1974-75 [Vol. 75], p. 555), led a breakaway group to constitute the new Reform party. Later his splinter group joined with the Progressive party to form the United Progressive-Reform party, with the leadership shared by both. Similar realignments took place in the Transvaal provincial council and, in greater numbers, in the city council of Johannesburg. A small number of Jews were now in the leadership of the combined Progressive-Reform group in parliament and in the Transvaal provincial council, and a larger number in the Johannesburg city council; but the other Jews retained their affiliation with the United party.

Although one or two newspapers drew attention to the number of Jews who had joined the Reform group, the split did not in fact occur along ethnic or religious lines. Schwartz himself, in a public address dealing with the role of Jews in politics, contended that while Jewish citizens should be sensitive to racial issues, they should function in the political field only as individuals; that the formation of any Jewish group identity in politics was undesirable.

Many Jews continued to be active in civic life. Max Neppe, mayor Johannesburg, was succeeded by Monty Sklar in 1976. David Blumberg retired after a very successful two years' tenure as mayor of Cape Town. Mrs. Beryl Herzberg became deputy-mayor of Germiston, the first woman to hold that position in 40 years. Leon Reich was elected Grahamstown's first Jewish mayor. David Wolff was re-elected deputy-mayor of Nigel for the fifth time, after 21 years of unbroken service as a member of the Nigel town council.

Antisemitism

Although reports of antisemitic activities were not frequent in the press, there was reason to believe that those groups and individuals who, in the past, fostered antisemitism had been stepping up their activity. Many of them belonged to the

right-wing elements, both Afrikaans-speaking and English-speaking, which opposed the government's détente policies and its gradual moving away from racial discrimination, attaching "Jewish-communist" or "Jewish-integrationist" labels to the trends they opposed.

There was some concern when pro-Nazi and anti-Jewish slogans appeared on bulletin boards at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, but the consensus was that undue significance should not be given to these incidents. Similarly, at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg swastikas were daubed on some buildings, and slogans, such as "Communism is Jewish" and "Race mixing stinks," appeared. There was said to be a small right-wing element on the campus, but it was believed that the slogans were probably painted by outsiders.

S.E.D. Brown, in his monthly journal *South African Observer*, continued attacks on all forms of racial integration (and incidentally also the Prime Minister's policy) by associating these policies with Judaism, Communism, and Zionism. The Cape publication *Muslim News*, a previously little-known journal circulating in the Moslem community that recently increased in size, has been printing virulent anti-Zionist as well as anti-Jewish articles. A regular theme in anti-Jewish leaflets and pamphlets was to discredit the death of six million Jews in the Holocaust as a myth.

While these manifestations of prejudice merit attention, and efforts were made to track down their sources, the over-all impression left by the press and radio was one of widespread sympathy and support for the State of Israel and its struggle against its enemies, with consequent goodwill towards the local Jewish community.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

South African Jewry had a wide network of organizations and institutions functioning in all segments of Jewish life. This report does not deal with ongoing activities, only with significant new developments.

S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies

Following the retirement of several senior officials, the Board of Deputies, under its new executive director Denis Diamond, underwent a process of adjustment. There were changes in staff and a reassessment of programs. In the field of inter-group relations, links were strengthened, particularly with opinion-makers and academics of the Afrikaans-speaking section. Several cultural functions were held jointly with the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg. *Buurman*, the Afrikaans quarterly journal, devoted a special issue to the centenary celebrations of the Afrikaans language. Jointly with the *Vaderland*, the Board sponsored a visit by South African-born Olga Kirsch, now living in Israel, whose contributions to Afrikaans poetry were highly esteemed. She was guest of honor at the dedication of the Afrikaans Language Monument at Paarl in the Cape. In the wider field of race

relations, Club 44 offered a forum for addresses by politicians of various parties and by prominent figures in the Coloured and Black communities.

The Board's links with Jews abroad were maintained through its informal association with the World Jewish Congress (WJC). In February 1975 a five-man delegation headed by J. E. Rosettenstein, the chairman, attended the World Jewish Congress plenary assembly in Jerusalem. David Mann, the Board's president, and Denis Diamond, its executive director, also attended the governing council of the WJC in Geneva in June, as well as meetings of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Commission on Jewish material claims against Germany.

The problem of religious instruction in schools, required by law to be "Christo-centric," continued to receive attention. The readiness of the authorities to acknowledge the special problems of the Jewish community was welcomed. In Johannesburg, most government schools made it possible for Jewish pupils who withdrew from religious instruction classes to take part in a Jewish religious education program. Some 3,000 students participated in an "assignments" program supervised by Chief Rabbi B. M. Casper and substantially financed by the United Communal Fund. In the Cape, several schools provided facilities for a Jewish studies program set up jointly by the Cape Council of the Board and the Western Province Zionist Council.

The projected construction in Johannesburg of a cultural center by the Board of Deputies was deferred for financial reasons. The museum and library in the existing premises were remodeled, to be used as a place for cultural and intellectual activities. The Board was to become a cosponsor of "The Academy Without Walls," the educational program sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and Haifa University.

Gustav Saron, the retired general secretary and now honorary consultant to the Board, was commissioned to write a new comprehensive history of South African Jewry.

Fund Raising

Changes in the scope and structure of the United Communal Fund (UCF), which, in addition to its commitments to other beneficiaries, now had full responsibility for the budgets of all major Jewish educational institutions, were welcomed. Although the 1975 campaign fell short of the required target, it attracted larger individual contributions and reached a bigger total. On the basis of that experience, a UCF National Coordinating Council was created and the administration and organization were streamlined. Budgeting controls were introduced in regard to the allocations to the beneficiary organizations, all of which were expected to make their contribution of workers and financial support. Under UCF national chairman Mendel Kaplan and the leaders of all its provincial committees, the next campaign launched in February 1976 set new standards for communal fund raising, with the emphasis on UCF's role in strengthening Jewish life in South Africa. It was inaugu-

rated by Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek and by chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of Great Britain.

Jewish Education

Jewish education continued to have high priority in community concerns. Apart from a separate network of schools maintained by the Union of Progressive Judaism and an independent Yiddish Folkschool in Johannesburg, educational institutions were under the supervision, respectively, of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, with headquarters in Johannesburg, and the Cape Board of Jewish Education, with headquarters in Cape Town.

It was reported at the national conference of the South African Board (October 9-12) that during the last three years Hebrew nursery-school attendance increased from 3,608 to 3,968 and that most Jewish nursery schools had long waiting lists. The number of pupils attending all-day schools rose from 6,328 to 7,454. According to these figures, about 30 per cent of the estimated 24,000 Jewish school-age children attended Jewish day schools. Plans were in progress for the establishment of a new day school in Sandton (a new municipality contiguous to Johannesburg). The South African Board was directly responsible for the conduct of nine day schools (primary and secondary) in Johannesburg, and the supervision and coordination of the work of 11 others. The Cape Board was responsible for the conduct of four primary schools and one secondary school in Cape Town, with an enrollment of 1,559.

At the conference, the Board's chairman, Ivan Greenstein, said the aim of Jewish education was to produce a "type of committed Jew"; that, "While we must strive to give our children the best possible secular education to equip them for their role in modern society, we must remember that the very reason for the existence of our schools is to produce Jews who are committed to preserving our Torah, our people and the land of Israel." Therefore, he continued, teachers brought from Israel to serve as heads of the Hebrew departments must be strictly religious and should provide leadership by example. Other given access to the school were the rabbinate, the Zionist Federation, and the Zionist youth movements, in line with "our belief in Israel as the centrality of our existence."

The availability of trained teachers continued to be a problem. Since the annual graduating class of the Rabbi Zlotnik (Avida) Teachers Training Seminary was not large enough to meet the needs, a regular supply of teachers, particularly with higher qualifications, had to be sought in Israel. There was, however, increasing emphasis on the need for such personnel to receive orientation for teaching in diaspora communities.

Teachers' salaries accounted for 75 per cent of the Board of Education's over-all budget, and were likely to rise. Expenditures far exceeded income despite higher school fees, and deficits were met by substantial contributions from the United Communal Fund and by a grant from the Zionist Federation, given with the consent of the Jewish Agency.

A new nursery-school center, with an enrollment of 290 children, was opened at the King David Linksfield School in Johannesburg. It was named after Max Greenstein, the late Board president who died two years earlier.

Among new officers of the Board of Education were Louis Sachs, its president, and Professor Sam Israelstam and Mendel Kaplan, vice-presidents.

An exchange scheme between Israeli and South African high-school students was inaugurated under the initiative of the headmaster of the Herzlia School in Cape Town and the director of the Cape Board of Jewish Education.

The one-year Jewish studies course of the department of Hebrew and Jewish studies at Natal University, headed by Professor Abner Weiss, was extended with the help of a grant by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, underwritten by the Board of Deputies. The one-year course of Jewish studies at Rhodes University, interrupted by the departure to Cape Town of lecturer Dr. B. Steinberg, was reinstated. Steinberg's successor was Shlomo Perla of Israel, the Jewish student adviser at the university.

Religion

The Federation of Synagogues promoted Orthodox Judaism through its various institutions and affiliated synagogues. The death of Professor Israel Bersohn, who for many years had held the combined posts of president and chairman of the Federation, was a severe blow. These positions were separated, with William Gavshon becoming president and Archie Peck chairman. In an effort to strengthen the *Bet Din*, the Federation planned to increase the size of that body to include a head *dayyan*, who will probably be brought from Israel.

Much interest was aroused by the visit in May of the "Rebbetzin" Esther Jungreis of the United States, who came for an intensive speaking engagement. Her *Hineni* (Here I Am) movement established a South African branch with headquarters in Johannesburg, which was supported by rabbis and various Orthodox institutions.

The Southern African Union for Progressive Judaism held its 28th national conference in Johannesburg in May. Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, claimed that South Africa was the third largest constituency of the Union. The conference passed resolutions reaffirming the movement's commitment to, and dedicated support for, the State of Israel and its belief, "along with Jews the world over," in the centrality of Jerusalem with regard to all expressions of the Jewish faith. It called on the Israel government "to recognize that Jewry today is a pluralistic society and that Israel should reflect that pluralism."

Rabbi Arthur Saul Super, for 15 years chief minister of the United Progressive Jewish Congregation of Johannesburg and former editor of the *Zionist Record*, retired in November and moved to Israel. His influence was noteworthy not only in religious matters, but also in public affairs where he became known for his outspoken liberal views on South African politics and race problems. The Rev. Dr.

Israel A. Ben-Yosef, formerly of Israel, was appointed minister of Temple Israel Progressive Congregation, where Rabbi Super had officiated.

The United Hebrew Congregation (UHC) of Johannesburg celebrated its 60th anniversary. Its five constituent congregations, the Great Synagogue (in Wolmarans Street) and the Yeoville, Oxford, Sandton, and the recently established Randburg congregations, had a combined membership of 4,767. The Bet Hamedrash Hagodel, successor to the pioneer First Orthodox Congregation in Johannesburg, merged with UHC to form the Sandton Synagogue Center. The Glenhazel synagogue, associated with the Yeshiva College in Johannesburg, was recently consecrated. The Sydenham-Highlands North congregation under the leadership of Rabbi L. Herring initiated a vigorous adult-education program, which also spread to other synagogues. Rabbi David Rosen, who came from Israel as a student adviser, was appointed minister to the Sea Point Hebrew Congregation in Cape Town.

In Calvinia (Cape), which no longer has a Jewish community, the synagogue was donated to become part of the C. P. Nel Museum. In Outshoorn (Cape), the ark of the abandoned St. John Synagogue, modeled on the Chelm synagogue in Lithuania, was housed in the local museum. The Queen Street Synagogue (built in 1888) was rededicated as a place of worship after it had been in disuse for 20 years.

Youth

The youth department of the Board of Deputies, under the recently appointed director Miss Cynthia Ziman, has begun a program for Jewish young people in Johannesburg offering social, cultural, and intellectual activities. Several music, theatre, and sports clubs and societies were formed.

"Counterpoint South Africa," patterned after an American project, was brought to South Africa on the initiative of Rabbi Selwyn Franklin of Durban, who had participated in a similar project in Australia. Its purpose was to involve participants in an experience of concentrated Jewish living through intensive seminar programs, usually in a rural setting away from home. A team of four young people from the United States participated in the program, which was financed by the Board of Deputies, the Union of Jewish Women, B'nai B'rith, and other agencies.

Cultural

The outstanding cultural event was the visit of Elie Wiesel, whose lectures drew large audiences and made a deep impression on all. Lively adult-education programs were promoted by a number of organizations. Cultural contacts between Israel and South Africa continued to be fostered, among them Israeli Hasidic Song Festival presentations and performances by the Bat-Dor Ballet company.

Among books published by South African Jews in 1975 were *Smuts: A Reappraisal*, by Bernard Friedman, a critical political biography; *Challenge of the Past*, by Frieda H. Sichel, a partly autobiographical and partly historical account of life in pre-Nazi Germany; *Heralds of the East Wings*, by Flor Morris, a historical novel;

Days of October, by Betty Misheiker, personal experiences in the Yom Kippur war; *A gliklikhe velt oder a mabl fun fayer* ("A Happy World or a Downpour of Fire"), by S. Bassim; *Women South Africa Remembers*, by Fay Jaff, a collection of short biographies.

Zionist Activities

The headquarters of the South African Zionist Federation in Johannesburg underwent a physical and organizational "face-lift" to improve the facilities for its ongoing work. Several new staff appointments were made, among them Dr. Gabriel Sivan from Israel as director of information and Mrs. Olga Horowitz as editor of the *Zionist Record*.

The biennial Israeli United Appeal launched in February was one of the major Zionist undertakings of the year. Inaugurated by Yosef Tekoah, the campaign was further boosted by the visits of Menahim Savidor, managing director of the Israel Citrus Products Export Board, and Moshe Gilboa, information director of the World Zionist Organization. Former Israel ambassador to Norway Itzhak Keenan assisted in the face-to-face canvass of top donors. In preparation for the campaign, Dr. Aryeh Neshet, vice-president of Haifa University, led seminars on fund raising, and there also were two study missions of top-level donors and workers to Israel.

Zvi Weinberg, director of the Jewish National Fund, came to promote a new project, a South African Forest in Israel. Many Israeli institutions continued to receive support, among them the Soldiers Center in Eilat, founded with a donation by the family of Morris Lubner. A scheme to bring Israeli war invalids on a holiday to South Africa was sponsored by the local friends of the Bet Ha-lokhem. The work of the local association for the welfare of soldiers in Israel was praised by Major General Yaacov Peri. Important projects of the Magen David Adom in Israel were supported from South Africa. A new library and recording studio was dedicated at the Institute for the Blind in Jerusalem, and named in honor of the late George Solomon Elkin.

The Union of Jewish Women received the Hebrew University Torch of Learning award in recognition of the sustained support the Union has given to the university for almost 40 years.

A display of Jewish books and a program of lectures was organized by the Zionist Federation in Johannesburg and in Cape Town.

The Zionist Federation stepped up its efforts to promote *aliyah*; it changed the name of its Israeli Affairs department to Aliyah department.

Personalia

Many South African Jews achieved distinction and recognition, especially in the academic, cultural, professional, and economic spheres. Only a select few of these are listed here:

Nadine Gordimer won the 1974 Central News Agency Prize for Literature for

her novel, *The Conservationist*, for which she also shared the Booker Prize of Britain with Stanley Middleton and won a French literary prize; Bertrand L. Bernstein, retired mining magnate and former chairman of the University Council of the Witwatersrand, was elected chancellor of that university; Hans Kramer received the Cape Tercentenary Merit Award for music; 21-year-old astrophysicist David L. Block was made a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society; Jack Metz, professor of haematological pathology at Witwatersrand University, became director of the South African Institute for Medical Research; Dr. Theodore Schneider, physician and well known communal worker, was awarded the Pro Mundi Beneficio Medal of the Brazilian Academy for the Human Sciences; warm tributes were paid to Dr. Solly Morris who retired from the post of city engineer of Cape Town, which he had held for the last 25 years.

Leading Jews who died during the year included: Professor Israel Bersohn, head of the cardiovascular research unit and associate director of the South African Institute for Medical Research, and for many years president of the Federation of Synagogues, died in Johannesburg in January, at the age of 65; Muriel Alexander, who played an important part in the development of the theatre and after whom the playhouse in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, was named, died in Johannesburg in March, at the age of 91; Sarah Goldblatt, literary executrix of the Afrikaans poet Langenhoven, widely recognized for her contributions to Afrikaans literature, died in Cape Town in May, at the age of 85; Ernest Ullman, renowned painter and sculptor, refugee from Nazi Germany, died in Johannesburg in July, at the age of 75; Major A. Z. Berman, for many years a leading member of the Cape Town city council, died in Cape Town in September, at the age of 83.

GUSTAV SARON