Central Europe

West Germany*

FOREIGN POLICY AND STATUS OF BERLIN

The lessening of East-West tensions was reflected in Germany during the period under review (July 1, 1962, to December 31, 1963). Foreign Minister Gerhard Schröder favored a flexible policy similar to President John F. Kennedy’s, and this was increasingly accepted by government and public. The West, however, gave up no rights in West Berlin—a fact strongly emphasized by President Kennedy in Berlin in June 1963. Since the Russians did not press their proposals for a “peace treaty” and a “Free City of West Berlin,” the status quo was more or less maintained. Until Chancellor Konrad Adenauer actually resigned on October 15, 1963, his impending retirement resulted in uncertainty and lack of direction in foreign affairs.

While his prospective successor Ludwig Erhard was an advocate of close relations with the United States and Britain, Adenauer had based his policy on strong ties to France. He visited General Charles de Gaulle in July 1962 and de Gaulle, in turn, made a trip to Bonn, Hamburg, Munich, and Ludwigsburg in October 1962, and was greeted with enthusiasm. De Gaulle reiterated his conviction that German-French unity was basic to the strength and survival of Europe. In January 1963 France and Germany signed a treaty providing for close cooperation in economic, cultural, and other matters. The treaty was ratified by the Bundestag (Federal parliament) in April, its preamble stating that it was not in conflict with other German international (e.g., NATO) obligations.

Bonn and Washington exchanged visitors on several occasions. Franz Josef Strauss, then defense minister, visited the United States in June 1962 and promised that West German arms purchases in the United States would

* For meaning of abbreviations, see p. 361.
equal the costs of the United States defense forces in the Federal Republic ($800 million annually). Foreign Minister Schröder conferred with President Kennedy and Secretary of State Dean Rusk in Washington, mainly on Berlin. Chancellor Adenauer visited Washington in November and promised to increase German defense expenditures by DM 1 billion to DM 2 billion ($250 million–$500 million) in 1963. President Kennedy visited Bonn, Cologne, Frankfurt, and Berlin in June 1963. The ovations for the American president exceeded those for de Gaulle, and the personality and ideas of the young president awoke a powerful response in the hearts of Germans, even before he proclaimed before the West Berlin city hall, “Ich bin ein Berliner!” (I am a Berliner).

How deep the feeling for Kennedy was became movingly clear when masses of the common people joined public officials and editors in expressions of grief at his untimely death on November 22. In Berlin 60,000 people spontaneously streamed to the place where he had spoken five months before. (It was renamed “John F. Kennedy Platz.”) The new Federal Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, who had planned to visit Kennedy on November 25, flew instead on that day to his funeral, accompanied by President Heinrich Lübke, Foreign Minister Schröder, and Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt. Erhard conferred with President Lyndon B. Johnson at the end of December.

Diplomatic exchanges concerning the status of West Berlin were inconclusive. Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev’s suggestion, in July 1962, that forces of the three Western powers in Berlin be replaced by troops of other nations was rejected by the West. De Gaulle expressed doubts as to the United States’ preparedness to defend West Berlin, and President Kennedy assured him, in September 1962, that preparedness was basic to United States policy. The next day Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara added that even nuclear weapons might be employed.

Before Christmas in 1963 negotiations were opened between the East Berlin authorities and those of West Berlin and the Federal Republic to permit West Berliners to visit their relatives in East Berlin, which had been prohibited since August 13, 1961. On December 17 a rather liberal agreement was achieved covering a 19-day period, and hundreds of thousands of West Berliners visited East Berlin during the holiday period.

Despite de Gaulle’s adamant opposition, the West German government continued to favor Great Britain’s admission to the European Economic Community (EEC). Difficult negotiations concerning EEC’s agrarian policy were successfully concluded the day before Christmas 1963. They modified EEC provisions concerning agriculture, which, when they became effective in August 1962, had reduced German agricultural protection and subsidies and met with opposition from the farmers.

A new flexibility was demonstrated by the government’s establishment of trade missions, despite the absence of diplomatic relations, with Poland and Rumania in October 1963 and with Hungary in November.
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

On October 26-27, 1962, police acting on orders of the Federal prosecutor’s office searched the Hamburg and Bonn editorial offices of the Hamburg weekly Der Spiegel (“The Mirror”), a mass-circulation news weekly often strongly critical of Chancellor Adenauer and even more so of Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss. The magazine had been responsible for the parliamentary inquiry into the Fibag affair (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 329). Der Spiegel was accused of disclosing military secrets by publishing an article alleging that inefficiency in the West German army had been revealed in NATO maneuvers. Strauss’s prosecution of the charges against the magazine caused many misgivings. The publisher, Rudolf Augstein, and five editors were arrested. In particular, the arrest of one of them, Conrad Ehlers, in Spain, aroused public indignation. Some of them were kept in custody, under investigation, for weeks, and by the end of 1963 formal charges had not yet been made against them.

Because of Defense Minister Strauss’s part in the affair and his efforts to conceal certain facts in regard to it, he was forced to resign by the Free Democratic Party (FDP), the junior partner in the government coalition, on November 30, 1962. (A new coalition government was formed on December 11. New ministers were Ewald Bucher [FDP], justice; Rolf Dahlgren [FDP], finance; Rainer Barzel [Christian Democratic Union-CDU], all-German affairs; Alois Niederalt [Christian Social Union-CSU], federal-state relations; Bruno Heck [CDU], family and youth, and Werner Dollinger [CSU], federal properties.) Strauss was replaced by Kai-Uwe von Hassel (CDU). The widespread indignation aroused by the Spiegel affair was considered by many observers to indicate a healthy public concern about the freedom of the press and resentment of police methods, which many compared with those of the Nazis. The law on treasonable activities, with whose violation the Spiegel editors were charged in a rather far-fetched accusation, and abridgments of the freedom of the press were widely discussed. Major changes in law seemed likely to result.

Konrad Adenauer yielded to his party’s pressure and reluctantly resigned the post of Federal chancellor in October 1963, 14 years after he had taken office. He was succeeded by Minister of Economics and Vice Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, who had been chosen for the post by the parliamentary factions of CDU and CSU in April. The cabinet Erhard presented to the Bundestag was essentially the same as Adenauer’s except for the additions of FDP leader Erich Mende, who became vice chancellor and minister for all-German affairs, and Hans Krüger (CDU), minister for expellees.

Erhard’s program, as presented to the Bundestag, was lauded both by the parties backing his administration (CDU-CSU and FDP) and the opposition party (SPD). His first pronouncements indicated that further sizable increases in Federal expenditures would be avoided. A DM 56.8 billion budget for 1964, including DM 2.2 billion for extraordinary expenditures,
was approved by the Federal cabinet in November 1963 (for an increase of only DM 2.6 billion over 1963, while the 1963 budget had been DM 4.4 billion higher than that for 1962). It was assumed that he would be his party's prime candidate in the parliamentary elections scheduled for September 1965, and that Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt again would be the candidate of the Social Democrats (SPD).

State elections brought impressive gains for SPD, but except for Berlin (where the socialists won 61.9 per cent of the vote) and a few other places it was not at the expense of the CDU or CSU.

The West German mark continued strong and employment was high. At the end of June 1963 there were 597,200 unfilled jobs (compared with 112,110 a year earlier), unemployment was negligible, and hundreds of thousands of Italians, Greeks, Turks, and Spaniards were working in Germany.

A major strike—one of the few noteworthy ones in postwar Germany—took place from April 29 to May 6, 1963, involving more than 400,000 metal workers of Württemberg and Baden. The settlement, granting a five per-cent wage increase retroactive to April 1, 1963, and an additional two per cent on April 1, 1964, was preceded by acrimonious debate, and its achievement was attributed to the mediation of Ludwig Erhard, then economics minister. The War Victims League conducted large-scale demonstrations against Erhard's refusal to grant their demand for pension increases. The controversy had possible significance for the Federal election campaign of 1965, as SPD sided with the war victims' association.

The retired first president of the Federal Republic, Theodor Heuss, died in December 1963, seven weeks before his 80th birthday. During his term of office, from 1949 to 1959, he gave moral strength and a democratic conscience to the young republic. Heuss had been an active liberal since his early days as a journalist and continued that tradition as a prolific writer until his death. He had cultivated many Jewish contacts; an anthology of his writings and speeches, selected by Hans Lamm, was published on his birthday by the Econ publishing house at Düsseldorf.

Erich Ollenhauer, for many years chairman of SPD, also died in December 1963. He had chaired the parliamentary group of his party, the country's second largest.

**FORMER NAZIS**

Public discussion about State Secretary Hans M. Globke, the highest civil servant in Adenauer's office (AJYB, 1962 [Vol. 63], p. 339), subsided when he retired at the same time as Adenauer, who had been his protector. In East Berlin a show trial was held against Globke on charges of having acted illegally against ethnic groups in occupied countries, of having played a major part in the anti-Jewish practices of the Nazis, and of having cooperated with the Nazis in their Germanization and extermination program. Globke, at the time still in Federal service, had refused to accept the trial
brief or to attend the court's session. The East German court imposed a life sentence in absentia.

More attention was attracted by numerous cases of former Nazis, including high SS functionaries, who were discovered in important civil-service positions. More than one official whose past was discovered had to exchange his desk for a jail cell. Former Miinster University Professor Paul Johann Kremer, for example, who had been convicted by a Polish court of crimes committed as camp physician, was indicted for the same crimes by a German court and sentenced to 10 years of hard labor.

Wilhelm Harster, on the other hand, who had in 1947 been sentenced by a Dutch court to 12 years at hard labor for crimes committed as SS brigade leader and chief of German security forces in the deportation of Jews, got off more lightly. After having served part of his sentence, Harster was released and returned to Munich, where, despite the fact that he did not conceal his past or his jail sentence, he was appointed to a high civil-service position in the Bavarian ministry of the interior. Because of public criticism he was pensioned off.

Criminal proceedings were begun against another high civil servant, Theo Sävecke, who early in 1963 had been transferred from an intelligence organization (Sicherungsgruppe Bonn) to the Federal criminal bureau of investigation at Wiesbaden. He was accused of having participated in murderous activities with the SS in Milan, during World War II.

In the course of a civil-court proceeding in which he was involved, Dr. Elmar Herterich, a Würzburg psychiatrist, discovered that a number of high judges and city officials had incriminating Nazi backgrounds and that the mayor of Würzburg had written a doctoral thesis in which he had propagated Nazi ideas. When Herterich undertook to expose them he received a number of threatening letters. In May 1963 he announced that out of concern for his family's safety he would give up the fight to expose and rid the administration of ex-Nazis, but he later resumed the campaign. Despite efforts to dismiss Herterich's charges as emanating from a "querulous-psychopathic" personality, his campaign created much concern, as it called attention to the great extent of ex-Nazi penetration of the administration and the courts. Although the yardsticks and methods applied by the Allies in their denazification campaign more than a decade earlier were still under criticism in democratic and other circles, there continued to be no legal basis for removing former Nazis from office without proof of the commission of specific crimes.

In September 1963 the Hamburg weekly Die Zeit charged that high officials of the Verfassungsschutz (Office to Protect the Constitution) were former high SS officers, and that employees of that office listened in and reported on telephone conversations in violation of constitutional provisions. Both accusations were being investigated by a parliamentary commission late in 1963.
WAR CRIMES AND NAZI CRIMES

Trials against Nazis who had committed and abetted the commission of war crimes and crimes against Jews and other subjugated groups continued to provoke controversy. It was asked whether 20 years after the perpetration of the acts, when the criminals were advanced in years, any good purpose was to be served by seeking out and trying them. The mixed feelings of the public—practically nobody would defend the misdeeds, but many did question the wisdom of prosecuting their perpetrators—was reflected in the actions taken (or not taken) by the authorities. Incredibly mild judgments in some cases were offset by others unaccountably severe by comparison.

Late in 1963 Hermann Langbein, a non-Jewish former inmate of some of the most notorious Nazi camps—among them Dachau, Auschwitz, and Neuengamme—and a vigorous, though not fanatical, advocate of Nazi-crimes trials, published a "preliminary balance sheet of trials of Nazi crimes" (Im Namen des deutschen Volkes, Vienna: Europa-Verlag). Reviewing 141 major trials conducted by German courts since the last of the war trials conducted by the courts of the four occupation powers, he was unable to generalize about the verdicts, finding some too mild, some just, and some very severe. His statistics, avowedly incomplete, showed that of the 141 trials, 118 took place between 1946 and July 1962, and 23 were concluded in the following one year. While the figures point to increased activity on the part of the prosecution authorities, any firm conclusions would have to wait for an analysis and comparison of individual sentences in different periods. Without by any means apologizing for prosecutors, courts, or public, Langbein pointed out the psychological and practical difficulties encountered by a democratic legal system in sentencing persons who had committed crimes within a totalitarian system that condoned, ordered, and instigated them.

Langbein was to be a major prosecution witness at the largest German Nazi crimes trial, which opened in December 1963 at Frankfurt am Main. That was the long-awaited Auschwitz trial, in which 22 men—21 SS men and one camp trustee (kapo)—were accused of participation in a multitude of murders at that most notorious of concentration camps, Auschwitz in Polish Silesia. The total number of persons murdered in Auschwitz would probably never be known, but Rudolf Höss, the first commandant, had estimated it at 2,500,000. Before the trial more than 1,300 persons had been interrogated by investigating authorities, the minutes of the hearings comprised 17,000 pages, and the trial brief 700 pages more. The last camp commandant, SS Sturmbannführer Richard Baer, had died in June 1963 while in prison awaiting trial. The chief remaining defendants were Stefan Baretzki, Hans Stark, Robert Mulka, Wilhelm Boger, Klaus Dylewski, and Gerhart Neubert. Because the West German constitution prohibited the death penalty, the maximum sentence they faced was life imprisonment. It was expected that the trial would last no less than eight months.
A second Auschwitz trial with another 17 defendants was in preparation. Sentences imposed against Nazi war criminals between July 1962 and the end of 1963 included five years in prison for Otto Hunsche, convicted at Frankfurt as an accessory in the murder of 600 people by his part in the deportations of Jews from Hungary to Auschwitz; six years for Wilhelm Döring, convicted at Bonn as an accessory in the murder of 638 persons; eight years for Oskar Waltke, convicted at Hanover for aiding in the murder of 73 persons; two years for Frank Lechthaler, convicted at Kassel as an accessory in the murder of 550 men, and four years for Martin Fellenz, convicted at Flensburg as an accessory in the mass murder of 39,000 Jews in South Poland. Alois Häfele, Gustav Laabs, Walter Burmeister, and others were sentenced at Bonn to terms up to 15 years for aiding in the mass murder of 152,000 Jews at Chelmno; Georg Heuser, Artur Wilke, and others, at Koblenz, to terms up to 15 years for aiding in mass murder; Joseph Paur, at Nuremberg, to seven years for the same crime, and Robert Mohr, at Wuppertal, to eight years as an accessory to the murder of 1,221 men. For crimes committed in concentration camps a Düsseldorf court sentenced Albert Widmann to $3\frac{1}{2}$ years and a Coburg court sentenced Kurt Eccarius to four years. SS General Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Nuremberg court for the murder of six men.

The apparent disproportion between many of the sentences and the enormity of the crimes was due largely to the fact that personal participation in murder could be proved in only a very few cases and that the excuse of acting on superior orders was accepted at least in part.

Nevertheless, some sentences were very hard to understand, as was pointed out in a letter by the German coordinating council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation to the professors of criminal law in German universities in March 1963. The letter stated that in all too many instances mass murders committed by Nazis were judged much more leniently than cases of individual murder. Among 12 such sentences cited were those imposed against Hunsche, Döring, and Fellenz.

**INDEMNIFICATION**

An effort was under way to complete final legislative action on indemnification and restitution. One psychological obstacle was that the “man in the street” felt that by 1963 enough had been paid to the Nazis’ victims. The average person was unaware of the differences between the restitution of identifiable property (which took place under Allied laws), indemnification for a variety of losses, such as life or limb, and, lastly, reparations to the State of Israel under the 1952 agreement (AJYB, 1953 [Vol. 54], p. 471-85). In addition, the government’s desire to keep Federal expenses low stood in the way of adoption of new legislation to fill gaps left by existing compensation laws.

In October 1962 Hendrik George van Dam, secretary general of the Zen-
tralrat der Juden in Deutschland (Central Council of Jews in Germany), stated that up to then payments to all groups of victims of the Nazis (Jews and others) had come to DM 18.5 billion ($4.625 billion): DM 14 billion ($3.5 billion) under the Bundesentschädigungsgesetz (AJYB, 1957 [Vol. 58], p. 286), more than DM 1.5 billion ($375 million) under Federal restitution legislation, and DM 3 billion in merchandise ($750 million) delivered to Israel. This estimate was less than half as much as that made by official sources, which was DM 40 billion ($10 billion). Van Dam pointed out also that of 1,700,000 persons who had filed claims, only 760,000 were Jews. He and others demanded a terminal amendment for the existing legislation, and in June 1963 the major demands of the Zentralrat and other organizations of victims of persecution were accepted by the government for presentation to parliament. Indemnification for students and trainees was to be doubled, and pensions were to be raised to the same degree as civil-servant salaries had been. Special provisions were incorporated for victims who for reasons of nationality, residence, etc., had thus far not been sufficiently considered. In November 1963 the Federal parliament considered the final legislation, and there was general confidence that it would be adopted.

During the debate Finance Minister Rolf Dahlgriin stated that payments to all groups of Nazi victims by Federal and state governments had amounted to DM 15 billion (somewhat less than $4 billion) and that the government had paid about DM 290 billion (slightly less than $75 billion) for war damages and Nazi criminal activities. Thus, payments to the hundreds of thousands or millions most gravely harmed by the Nazis amounted to less than six per cent of total government expenditures for the war's effects. He estimated that governmental expenditures for the Nazis' victims might rise to a total of DM 23 billion (slightly less than $6 billion).

ANTISEMITISM

In March 1963 the Federal ministry of the interior published its annual report on right-wing organizations and antisemitism in the republic. It said that membership in such groups had decreased from 35,000 in 1961 to 27,000 at the time of the report. Of 112 youth groups, very few had more than 250 members. The press of the extreme right, however, was reported to have increased its circulation from 160,000 to 192,000. While the minister conceded that there still existed “concealed anti-Jewish, totalitarian, and imperialist tendencies,” he denied that there was any threat to the democratic order and expressed his conviction that the people had isolated the few fanatics.

In October the Social Democratic minister of the interior for the state of Hesse, Heinrich Schneider, published statistics which seemed to corroborate the Federal report on antisemitic incidents. In five years antisemitic remarks had been an issue in 784 state court proceedings and had led to the sentencing of 140 persons.

Among judicial decisions in the period under review were the following:
Friedrich-Wilhelm Schmidt, a propagandist of the German Reich party—a minor group without parliamentary representation—who had been sentenced to a fine of DM 600 ($150) in October 1961 (AJYB, 1962 [Vol. 63], p. 343) for derogatory remarks about the synagogue, had a second trial, in which one month in jail was added to the sentence. In April 1963 an Augsburg court ruled that Otto Rösch, who had been discharged by a state insurance company for having defended Hitler's anti-Jewish measures, had no claim to reinstatement. In May a Bielefeld court sentenced 60-year-old Alfred Förster to six months in jail and a fine of DM 600 for having remarked that Hitler had not gassed enough Jews.

In June an abandoned Jewish cemetery in Grossgerau, Hesse, was desecrated. The state attorney announced that a reward of DM 1,000 ($250) would be paid for information about the culprits.

Stones were thrown at windows of the Stuttgart synagogue in October. A reward of DM 2,000 ($500) was offered by state authorities for information.

Printed posters bearing swastikas and Nazi slogans were found on buildings in Frankfurt, Berlin, and some other cities. Investigations revealed that the imprint "National Socialist Movement, London W 11" was not a forgery and that the material had actually been shipped from England. The identity of the distributors was not discovered.

In July the Federal attorney general announced that more than a hundred copies of the executed Julius Streicher's notorious antisemitic journal Der Stürmer had been found, and that there was proof of ties between three persons arrested in connection with the discovery and a "National States Rights Party" (p. 68) and a "World Union of National Socialists."

Schleswig-Holstein authorities initiated disciplinary measures against the former high-school teacher Lothar Stielau, whose 1958 article, claiming that the Diary of Anne Frank was a fake, had led to his suspension in 1959 and to court proceedings in October 1961 (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 333).

In June 1963 Hamburg University Professor Peter R. Hofstätter reportedly told a students' group that Hitler's measures leading to the destruction of European Jewry were acts of war, as the Jews "had in effect declared war on Hitler." A wave of indignation swept through the university, the city of Hamburg, and large sectors of the German public. While Professor Hofstätter, who had taught at a Catholic university in the United States, was generally known not to be antisemitic or pro-Nazi, his utterances were deplored by university authorities. However, in December, after elaborate investigations, they decided to take no disciplinary measures against him.

In an interview published in the Allgemeine Zeitung der Juden in Deutschland on October 25, 1963—one of his last interviews before retiring—Chancellor Adenauer summarized his views on the Jews and Germany. He declared that Jews could live with confidence in the Federal republic, that the redemocratization of the country had progressed substantially but that more progress was needed, that German youth was entirely free of anti-
Semitic feelings, that Germany was prepared to oppose radicalism of the right and the left successfully, that it was willing to aid Israel even after the expiration of the Luxembourg agreements, and that "in the foreseeable future" diplomatic relations would be established with Israel on the same basis as with the Arab countries.

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

While there was reason to assume that antisemitism was latent in many circles and virulent in a few, the attitude of the authorities and public-opinion media was one of open-mindedness and friendliness toward Jews, in some instances bordering on philosemitism. Such tendencies and activities continued to find a focus in the Deutscher Koordinierungsrat der Gesellschaften für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit (German Coordinating Council of Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation), a federation of 37 local societies (two more than in 1962), which sponsored an annual Brotherhood Week in hundreds of German localities. The press, television, radio networks, etc., gave their usual cooperation. Less spectacular, but possibly more effective, were such other activities as conferences for educators and ministers, which were sponsored by these societies. Monthly gatherings of the local societies provided some of the few opportunities for Jews and non-Jews to meet on a social and educational plane. The coordinating council and its local members sponsored study trips for teachers and youth groups to Israel. It also sponsored a European educators conference at Wiesbaden from October 30 to November 3, 1962.

Evangelical and Catholic academies, active in practically all parts of Germany, sponsored other study conferences on Jewish problems, uniting ministers, scholars, and laymen in study and discussions. The annual Catholic and Lutheran conferences, stimulated in part by the pronouncements of Popes John XXIII and Paul VI, discussed Jewish questions. And Drei Ringe, an association of Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant youths, held weekend conferences in Munich in October 1962 and in Cologne in December 1963.

Even more than in previous years, the media molding public opinion published objective information on Judaism, the history of the Jews, and the State of Israel. The weekly Der Spiegel devoted 14 richly documented and illustrated pages to current problems of the German Jewish community (July 31, 1963). In the same issue Zentralrat Secretary General van Dam took a cautious attitude toward Jewish re-immigration to Germany but expressed the hope that German democracy would be reestablished so firmly that Jews could live there without fear.

The 25th anniversary of "Crystal Night" (November 9, 1938), when a thousand synagogues in Germany were burnt and destroyed, was commemorated widely by the German public and in the press; in many cities there were spontaneous marches to the sites of synagogues burnt on that notorious night. The Second German Television Network devoted a one-hour pro-
gram to the commemoration of the events. Memorial plaques and monuments commemorating the events of November 1938 were dedicated at Detmold, Lemgo, Gelsenkirchen, and Herne.

Youth groups and religious organizations made pilgrimages to the site of the Dachau concentration camp.

A memorial hall for victims of Nazi persecution was opened in the city of Oberhausen on the occasion of its 100th-anniversary celebration in September 1962. The city established annual fellowships for students of Jewish descent, and a number of Israelis took advantage of this educational facility in subsequent months. In the same month Düsseldorf renamed one of its streets in honor of Rabbi Siegfried Klein, who had officiated there until he was deported in September 1941. In July 1963 the city of Cologne named several streets in honor of Jews who had lived most of their lives there: Moses Hess (1812–1875), socialist and early Zionist; Georg Bayer (1884–1943), editor and city deputy; Adolf Kober (1879–1958), rabbi and university lecturer, and Elias Gut (1869–1945), teacher and principal at a Jewish teachers' seminary.

The 85th birthday in Israel of Martin Buber, formerly of Frankfurt, attracted the notice of the German press and public. The cultural ministers of the German states donated DM 40,000 ($10,000) for the publication of his philosophical works.

North Rhine-Westphalia voted to establish a chair of Judaic studies at one of the state universities.

Much excitement was caused by Rolf Hochhuth's play Der Stellvertreter ("The Deputy" [pp. 197; 221]), which was first produced by Erwin Piscator in Berlin. The author's claim that Pope Pius XII failed to do enough to prevent or protest Hitler's murder of the Jews was hotly discussed among Christians and Jews alike.

A major event in the cultural history of Germany was "Monumenta Judaica," an exposition prepared and exhibited by the city of Cologne. Subtitled "2,000 Years of Jewish History on the Rhine," it embraced Jewish political, social, and cultural history throughout the entire Christian era. While the pioneering "Synagoga" expositions at Recklinghausen and Frankfurt in 1960 and 1961 (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 339) had concentrated on religious and artistic objects, this far more extensive presentation portrayed by documents, pictures, and other material the vicissitudes of Jewish history in the lands on the Rhine from Switzerland to Holland. The exposition was opened on October 15, 1963, by Bundestag President Eugen Gerstenmaier and attracted tens of thousands of visitors from German cities and abroad. It was so overwhelmingly successful that it was to be extended beyond the scheduled closing date, February 15, 1964. An exposition catalogue and a handbook of some 800 pages, with many articles on the history of Jews in the Rhineland, were published, both richly illustrated. They were distributed by the Melzer publishing house at Cologne.
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

Relations with Israel continued paradoxical (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 335). Cultural, economic, tourist, and human relations were undoubtedly good, indeed better than with a number of countries with which West Germany maintained diplomatic relations. But the Federal government persistently refused to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel. A few representatives of the governing CDU-CSU parties defended this policy of non- (or not-yet-) recognition; thus CDU deputees Ernst Majonica and Berthold Martin spoke in its defense while visiting Egypt in September 1963. But a number of more important personalities and a great many citizens' groups demanded that recognition be no longer delayed.

Former Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss visited Israel in May and June 1963 and on his return declared that ambassadors should be exchanged; as chairman of CSU (Bavarian sister party of CDU), Strauss's words carried weight. Bundestag President Eugen Gerstenmaier, opening the “Monumenta Judaica” exposition in October 1963 said that diplomatic relations, though probably not without risks, should be established promptly. In his interview (p. 252) with the Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland retiring Chancellor Adenauer expressed his hope that “in the foreseeable future” (in absehbarer zeit) diplomatic relations with Israel could be established. In his first press conference on December 3 the new Chancellor Ludwig Erhard stressed his desire to continue the good relations with Israel, but added that in regard to formal diplomatic ties the administration's answer for the time being would still have to be “not yet.” He expressed the fear that otherwise the Arab states might recognize the East German regime (DDR) in the Soviet occupied zone.

On September 10, 1962, the tenth anniversary of the Luxemburg agreements for German reparations deliveries to Israel, both Israelis and Germans expressed their unqualified satisfaction with the manner and spirit in which the agreement had been carried out. To that date goods valued at approximately DM 1.65 billion (over $400 million) had been delivered: iron and non-iron metal products accounted for 22.6 per cent; fabricated steel for 43.4 per cent; chemical and allied products for 19.8 per cent; agricultural and allied products for 5.5 per cent, and services for 8.7 per cent.

Normal trade relations were to be expanded after the expiration of the Luxembourg agreements.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Jewish population of West Germany increased slightly, and that of West Berlin declined by about the same amount. In October 1963 there were 22,853 members of Jewish congregations (Kultus- or Synagogengemeinden), of whom 12,329 were men and 10,524 women. (In October 1962 there were 22,240.) Of these, 5,664 (2,904 men and 2,760 women) lived in West
Berlin. The birthrate continued to be very low; between October 1962 and October 1963 there were 55 births and 465 deaths. Immigration (in many cases probably return) to Germany continued to be more than twice as high as emigration (372).

Religious Activities

Religious life continued along established lines (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 337), without major events. There were still some 50 teachers who provided religious instruction in about as many communities for about 1,800 pupils between 6 and 14 years of age. Instructors attended periodic conferences sponsored by the Zentralrat's cultural department.

The shortage of rabbis and teachers seemed likely to grow worse, as there were no German-language seminaries for such personnel.

Rabbi Hans Grünwald left the Hamburg community to become rabbi of Munich. Rabbi Peter N. Levinson, a former United States army chaplain, served as rabbi at Mannheim and the neighboring communities of Heidelberg and Karlsruhe. Rabbi Hanoch Meyer returned from Dortmund to Israel, and his place was taken by Rabbi Emil Davidovicz, formerly of Prague. Rabbi Sigmund Szobel was chosen as communal rabbi by the Jewish community of Frankfurt am Main, and Rabbi I. Emil Lichtigfeld continued as land rabbi for the State of Hesse.

The Jewish community of Bielefeld dedicated a community center with space for 60 worshipers, exactly the number of congregation members. In 1933 there were 1,200. State and church authorities participated in the ceremony on September 22, 1963.

On November 10, 1963, on the 25th anniversary of Crystal Night, a new synagogue was dedicated at Hanover. The impressive building was designed by Hermann Guttmann, a Jewish architect of Frankfurt, who had built a number of other synagogues in recent years. It had space for 180 men and 120 women. The Jewish community of Hanover had 451 members, compared to more than 5,000 in 1933, of whom only 20 or 30 survived. Norbert Prager, president of the Hanover community, welcomed many guests of honor, among them Lower Saxony's Minister of Interior Otto Bennemann and Rabbi Emil Schorsch, the last rabbi of the old Hanover community and now of Pottstown, Pa. The city of Hanover and the Jewish community published an illustrated 210-page volume, drawn largely from the rich archives of Ludwig Lazarus of that city. Prager, who had conducted the community through the difficult years of reconstruction, was honored by Lower Saxony with its Great Badge of Merit.

Communal Affairs

The Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland became a public-law corporation (Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts) after having functioned for years without precise legal status. The new status entitled it to sue or initiate other legal proceedings. Previously only individual Jews could take such action
against defamation, libel, or discrimination. The state and communal associ-
ations affiliated with the Zentralrat also required the status of public-law
 corporations. Such associations existed in Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen, North
Rhine-Westphalia, Cologne, Rhineland-Pfalz, Frankfurt, Hessen, Württem-
berg, Baden, Saar, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, and Schleswig-Holstein. Each
affiliate was represented in the council (Ratsversammlung) of the Zentral-
rat by not less than one or more than eight delegates. The council met once
a year or more frequently at the call of the 18-man directorate, in which
each affiliate had one or two representatives. Under the supervision of the
directorate, a six-man administrative council, together with the general
secretary, conducted the daily business of the Zentralrat. Hendrik George
van Dam was again named to this post.

The new organizational setup was approved by unanimous vote of the
Zentralrat in January 1963, in Cologne, when the new bodies assembled for
the first time and elected Herbert Lewin of Offenbach president. He suc-
cceeded Heinz Galinski of Berlin, who was elected chairman of the adminis-
trative council. The meeting was greeted by Mayor Theo Burauen of Co-
logne, Cologne Rabbi Emanuel Scherschewski, and the representative of the
State of Israel in Germany, Felix Shinnar. The newly constituted Zentralrat
met again in Cologne in June 1963.

Cultural Activities

In May 1963, on the 90th anniversary of the birth of the late Rabbi Leo
Baeck, the Zentralrat awarded the annual prizes bearing his name to the
philosopher David Baumgardt (p. 431), who died a few weeks later in
New York City at the age of 73; to the Lutheran theologian Reinhold Mayer
of Tübingen University, who had just published a selection from the
Babylonian Talmud in German, and to Franz Rödel of Jetzendorf, who for
decades had conducted a Catholic institutum judaicum.

A large number of books on Jewish subjects (scholarly, popular, and
fiction) were published by German publishers, Jewish and non-Jewish in
1962 and 1963, a few being issued under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Insti-
by Stefan Schwartz was issued by the Olzog publishing house in Munich in
1963.

Stefan Zweig’s pacifist drama Jeremias, written in 1917, was successfully
performed by the Berlin Theater on the Kreuzberg. In November 1962 the
actress Elisabeth Bergner received the DM 10,000 Schiller Award of the
city of Mannheim, and the actor Ernst Deutsch received the Kainz Award
from the city of Vienna.

Among authors lecturing in Germany were Max Brod of Tel-Aviv, who
was 84 in 1963, and Shalom Ben-Chorin of Jerusalem.

The works of the American painter Lea Steinwasser and the sculptress
Hannah Miriam Cavin were shown at the Folkwang Museum in Essen, and
the paintings of the 79-year-old Ludwig Meidner were shown at the Recklinghausen Kunsthalle in November 1963 and in Berlin in December 1963.

Social Services

Social services within the Jewish community were, as in past years, provided mainly through the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland (ZWST—Central Welfare Office of Jews in Germany), and private voluntary associations, most of them affiliated with the League of Jewish Women. ZWST contributed to the care of the sick, the needy, and the aged, and trained teachers and social workers for kindergartens, vacation homes, etc.

In the summer of 1962 ZWST children’s homes at Sobernheim cared for 350 children, and the home at Wembach for 120. Seventy-five Jewish children were taken on a trip to Israel. In the summer of 1963, 815 children were accommodated in Wembach, Sobernheim, Israel, and Switzerland.

A cottage for Jewish children was opened in the Albert Schweitzer Village near the city of Waldenburg in Württemberg, where 72 orphan children were housed. Nine Jewish children lived there in 1963.

The Jewish Hospital of Berlin, whose many patients had for many years included only a small number of Jews, was sold to the city of Berlin after long negotiations. It was to be operated as a foundation under the old name, and two Jews continued to be members of its seven-man board.

In November 1963, 110 delegates of the 24 Jewish women’s groups affiliated with the League of Jewish Women in the Federal republic and Berlin met in that city to review their 10 years’ of activity. Among the guests of honor were the president of the Berlin parliament, Otto Bach, and a representative of the Federal government, Felix von Eckardt. Major addresses were delivered by Rabbi Cuno Lehrmann of Berlin and Ernst G. Lowenthal of Frankfurt.

The ZWST regularly published Jüdische Sozialarbeit. The League of Jewish Women published Die Frau in der Gemeinschaft every two or three months.

Zionism

Activities of various communal organizations in behalf of Israel—WIZO, other Zionist organizations, and youth groups—continued; bazaars, as well as the traditional campaigns (JNF, Magbit) succeeded in raising substantial sums.

The Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland made repeated demands for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel.

Personalia

Gottfried Berman Fischer, head of the S. Fischer publishing house, one of the most distinguished in Germany, was honored on his 65th birthday, in July 1962, with one of the highest awards of the Federal Republic and with the Goethe plaque of the city of Frankfurt. Max L. Stern, for 50 years
a member of the Fürth bar, received the Cross of Merit in July 1962. Senator President Josef Franken of Düsseldorf, a leading jurist, received the German Medal for Merit on his 75th birthday in August 1962.

Max Willner, ZWST director, was awarded the Badge of Honor of the German Red Cross in October 1962.

The physician Nathan Wolf, a Wangen city-council member, who returned from Switzerland in 1945, was awarded the Cross of Merit at a community celebration in December 1962. Kurt R. Grossman received the 1963 Albert Schweitzer Award for his biography of Carl von Ossietzky.


Former Senate President Alfred Lewy, the first chairman of the Saarbrücken Jewish community, died in October 1962, at the age of 74. He had been a high-court judge and had returned from France in 1946.

In October 1962 Robert Eichengrün, president of the Bielefeld Jewish community, died at the age of 79.

Bundestag member Jakob Altmeier died at the age of 73 in February 1963. A socialist journalist, he was elected to represent Hanau in the Bundestag in 1949 and was reelected in each succeeding election. He was instrumental in achieving the reparations agreement with Israel.

Max Jacobi, chairman of the Essen Jewish community, died at the age of 77, in April 1963. Ludwig Müller, president of the Augsburg Jewish community, died, at the age of 72, in June 1963. Dr. Fritz Holzbock, medical adviser of the JDC Munich offices and the local Jewish welfare agency, died, aged 65, in July 1963.

Ludwig Rosenberg was elected president of the German trade unions at Hanover in October 1962. Jean Mandel, president of the Jewish community of Fürth, was elected to represent the Jews of Bavaria in the state senate in December 1963.

The Berlin Evangelical clergyman Heinrich Grüber, who had courageously aided Jews during the Nazi period and was the only German witness to testify at the Jerusalem trial against Adolf Eichmann, was awarded an honorary doctorate of human letters by the Hebrew Union College at Cincinnati in October 1962.

HANS LAMM
Austria *

Two national elections and growing animosity between the Socialists and the conservative People's party, partners in the coalition which had ruled the country since 1945, marked the 18 months, ending December 1963, reviewed in this survey.

In November 1962, 4,456,782 Austrians (92.7 per cent of the electorate) voted for the sixth Nationalrat (parliament) of the second Austrian republic. The People's party won 81 seats, the Socialists 76, and the right-wing Freedom party 8. This was only a slight change from the preceding Nationalrat's 79, 78, and 8, respectively. But any shift in the distribution of seats between the two almost equally strong Socialist and People's parties was politically relevant. Thus the People's party insisted that its gain of two seats entitled it to greater influence in the new coalition government. As a result, the new cabinet, in which Alfons Gorbach of the People's party continued as prime minister, was not formed until March 1963.

The People's party did not succeed in ousting Foreign Minister Bruno Kreisky, a Socialist and the only Jew in the government, and both partners kept the departments they had before the 1962 election (the People's party, however, obtaining additional undersecretaries). Josef Afritsch was replaced by another Socialist, Franz Olah, as minister of interior. Finance Minister Josef Klaus gave way to Franz Korinek, both of the People's party.

The Socialists and the People's party inserted in their agreement renewing the coalition a clause allowing a free vote in parliament on questions on which the government could not agree.

In April 1963 Austria elected a president for the fourth time since the war. As on the previous occasions, the victor was a Socialist. President Adolf Schaerf was reelected with 55.4 per cent of the ballots against 40.6 per cent for the nominee of the People's party, former Chancellor Julius Raab, and 4 per cent for Josef Kimmel (European Federalist party).

Influential groups within the People's party were opposed to continuing the coalition with the Socialists. Since the resignation of Chancellor Raab in April 1961 (AJYB, 1962 [Vol. 63], p. 358), these groups had gained in importance and their caucus, called "reformers," had come increasingly to the fore. Raab and his successor Gorbach tried unsuccessfully to stem the growth of the "reform" faction. Gorbach resigned as chairman of his party in September 1963 and was succeeded by Klaus, leader of the "reform" group.

Mindful of the civil war of 1934, the Socialists preferred to avoid a

* For meaning of abbreviations, see p. 361.
rupture with the People's party, but were uncertain how long it could be put off. Tension within the coalition was manifested in 1963 in the "Hapsburg conflict."

Former Archduke Otto von Hapsburg, who had lost his appeal to the constitutional court against the government's veto of his return to Austria (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 342), turned to the administrative high court and won his case in May 1963. The government was unable to reach any decision, since the People's party advocated submission to the administrative court's ruling and the Socialists vehemently opposed Hapsburg's return. The Socialist minister of interior ordered the borders closed to the former archduke, and subsequently, on the initiative of the Socialists, the chamber debated the issue. For the first time in the history of the second Austrian republic, the People's party was defeated by the united votes of the Socialists and the Freedom party, who on June 5 and July 4, 1963, amended the "Hapsburg Law" of 1919 and declared Otto von Hapsburg unwanted in Austria.

The Socialists were able to vote against their coalition partner under the clause permitting a free vote in the parliament. Nevertheless, the People's party did not take its defeat in good grace and clashes between the coalition partners gained in bitterness. Many Socialists, though glad that they could impose a veto on the return of Otto von Hapsburg, were not happy about rapprochement with the Nazi-tinged Freedom party. Shortly before his untimely death in August 1963, the leading Socialist journalist Oscar Pollak warned the Socialist party not to seek a coalition with the Freedom party.

The Jewish community made no secret of its preference for cooperation between the Socialist and People's parties and its distrust of the Freedom party. On the eve of the 1962 Nationalrat election, the organ of the Vien- nese Jewish Kultusgemeinde, *Die Gemeinde* (October 30, 1962), wrote: "A party which would be ready to cooperate with the Freedom party is not acceptable to the Jewish voters." And commenting on the results of the election, the same journal (November 30) welcomed the renewed coalition between the two main parties.

The Austro-Italian tension caused by the Alto Adige (South Tyrol) conflict (AJYB, 1962 [Vol. 63], p. 358) flared up from time to time. In December 1963 Italian Foreign Minister Giuseppe Saragat, after having met his Austrian colleague, declared that the new Italian government would try to find ways and means of liquidating the conflict with Austria.

After a slight slowdown in the first months of the year, the Austrian economy regained its 1962 level in the second half of 1963. Full employment continued with an all-time record of 2,400,400 gainfully employed in September 1963.

When General Charles de Gaulle vetoed England's admission to the European Economic Community (EEC) in January 1963, the other member nations of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) decided not to seek association with EEC for the time being. But they agreed to let Austria, an
EFTA member, continue her efforts to find a *modus vivendi* with EEC. One of the first steps undertaken by the Austrian government formed in March 1963 was to renew Austrian application for associate EEC membership.

**NAZI TRIALS—ANTISEMITISM**

In a series of trials, judges and juries showed marked leniency towards Nazis charged with crimes against Jews in the Hitler era. Of the better-known accused, only Stefan Rojko, commandant of the so-called “little fortress” (Kleine Festung) in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, got a severe sentence. Most of the other cases ended in acquittal. The notorious Franz Murer, who had been accused of killing numerous Jews in the Vilna ghetto, was found not guilty in Graz in June 1963. Robertus Jan Verbelen (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 342), a Belgian Nazi leader, sentenced *in absentia* to death in his native country, was saved from extradition to Belgium when the high administrative court overruled the Viennese state government, which had revoked his Austrian naturalization on the ground that it had been obtained by fraud. Richard Hochrainer (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 342), who ordered the execution of nine Jews in 1945 and was sentenced to seven years in 1961, was freed by a higher court. Erich Rajakowitsch, accused of deportation of Jews from Holland, would have been set free if additional data, charging him with war crimes, had not been sent in from Amsterdam (p. 231).

The Jewish Gemeinden raised the question of the statute of limitations and suggested regulations which—following the West German example—would make the 20-year statutory period for specific crimes committed under the Nazi regime start in June 1945, when courts could for the first time, at least in principle, try the Nazis (*Die Gemeinde*, December 20, 1962). A law passed by the Austrian parliament in July 1963 incorporated this suggestion in full; it was opposed by the Freedom party and supported by the Socialist and People’s parties.

Manifestations of overt antisemitism were rare and of limited scope. Loud antisemitic remarks were heard in the University of Vienna during a lecture there by Israeli Professor David A. Flusser in March 1963. After the lecture a poster, with the inscription: “Pig Jews; Out of Austria,” was found in the university hall. A carnival celebration at the winter resort of Malinitz featured a “Jewish float” showing two Jews dressed in the “Stürmer” tradition and ornamented with an inscription: “Jews spared by Eichmann because they were poor” (*Die Gemeinde*, March 29, 1963).

On the other hand, there were expressions of disgust with vestiges of the Nazi ideology. An Austrian youth (Bundesjugendring) delegation laid a wreath in the Jewish cemetery at Horn as a gesture of atonement for its desecration by misled youth in 1961 and 1962 (*Die Gemeinde*, November 30, 1962). In Vienna young Austrians staged a demonstration against the acquittal of Franz Murer (*Jewish Chronicle*, July 5, 1963). The authorities,
too, intervened against neo-Nazis. Minister of the Interior Olah threatened the dissolution of the war veterans' organization in the event that even one member wore a swastika at a public meeting of the organization (JTA, September 25, 1963).

**JEWISH POPULATION**

Besides the slightly more than 10,000 Jews registered with or known to the Austrian Kultusgemeinden and JDC, at least 2,000 and perhaps 3,000 or more Jews not affiliated with any Jewish organization lived in Austria. At the time of writing, detailed data were available only for the membership of the Viennese Kultusgemeinde.

### TABLE 1. AGE, SEX, AND NATIONALITY OF VIENNESE KULTUSGEMEINDE MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 1962, 1963

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number 1962</th>
<th>Per Cent 1962</th>
<th>Number 1963</th>
<th>Per Cent 1963</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-14</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-40</td>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-60</td>
<td>3,091</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>2,997</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 and over</td>
<td>3,769</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>3,814</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,374</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,176</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Number 1962</th>
<th>Per Cent 1962</th>
<th>Number 1963</th>
<th>Per Cent 1963</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4,808</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>4,695</td>
<td>51.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4,566</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>4,481</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nationality**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Number 1962</th>
<th>Per Cent 1962</th>
<th>Number 1963</th>
<th>Per Cent 1963</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austrian Nationals</td>
<td>7,688</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>7,521</td>
<td>82.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreigners</td>
<td>1,686</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>1,655</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 2. CHANGES IN VIENNESE KULTUSGEMEINDE MEMBERSHIP, 1962–63

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1962</th>
<th>1963</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-registrations</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Increase</strong></td>
<td><strong>552</strong></td>
<td><strong>235</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigration</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resignations</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Decrease</strong></td>
<td><strong>496</strong></td>
<td><strong>380</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Change</strong></td>
<td>+56</td>
<td>-145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* January 1–November 30.

b Including two persons converted to Judaism.
Austria remained a country of Jewish transmigration. Substantial numbers of Jews en route to other countries passed through Austria and were assisted there by Jewish international organizations.

**Jewish Community Activity**

Emil Maurer, president of the Viennese Jewish community (Kultusgemeinde) since 1949, retired in February 1963 and was succeeded by Ernst Feldsberg, who had been vice president since 1953. The community elections due in 1963 were postponed to December 1964.

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Austria (Bundesverband) held its general assembly in December 1963 and chose two vice presidents—Ernst Brande (Vienna) and Ludwig Biro (Graz). The president and the executive director of the Viennese Kultusgemeinde, Ernst Feldsberg and Wilhelm Krell, were *ex officio* president and executive director of the Bundesverband, respectively. The assembly decided to put the Jewish Documentation Center, headed by Simon Wiesenthal, under the jurisdiction of the Viennese community in 1964. The center, established by the federation in 1961, had made an appreciable contribution to the unmasking of former Nazi criminals.

The activities of the Jewish communities were supported by local Jewish funds (taxation and payment for services), governmental allocations, and funds provided by CJMCAG and JDC. The main governmental allocations consisted of indemnification for losses sustained by the communities during the Nazi rule (AJYB, 1962 [Vol. 63], p. 361) and were used for capital costs. The main beneficiary, the Viennese community, planned several projects: renovation of the Seitenstättengasse synagogue, construction of a community center, restoration of the cemetery chapel (Zeremonienhalle) in the Central Cemetery, building of an Orthodox synagogue, and improvement and equipment of the Jewish hospital and home for the aged.

The cornerstone for the Jewish center was laid in June 1963. In September the restored Seitenstättengasse synagogue was rededicated. It was the only synagogue in Vienna that had escaped destruction during Crystal Night in 1938, the Nazis fearing that setting it on fire would endanger buildings in the neighborhood. A survey was conducted to determine what services should be modernized in the home for the aged and the hospital.

The welfare caseload of the Viennese community consisted of 615 persons a month in 1962 and about 675 in 1963. The home for the aged had 118 residents in November 1963, and the Jewish hospital, with 30 beds in its surgical ward and 28 in the ward for internal diseases, treated 5,000 outpatients in 1962. More than 600 children received Jewish education in one form or another in 1962: about 185 attended two full-time schools (Hebrew school and Talmud Torah of Agudath Israel), about 45 were enrolled in the Sinai afternoon school of Mizrahi, and approximately 400 attended religious classes supervised by the Gemeinde. Two hundred and fifty-three children in 1962 and 207 in 1963 were enabled to spend their vacations in
summer camps. The aged also were given vacations: 172 in 1962 and 177 in 1963.

The Jewish Credit Cooperative granted 103 loans totaling $101,538 in 1962 and 84 loans totaling $91,825 in the first six months of 1963. From its inception in 1949 to the end of 1963, the cooperative had made 1,491 loans amounting to $1,054,035.

JDC carried on a direct welfare program in behalf of transient refugees, which benefited more than a thousand persons in 1962. It also supported a kosher kitchen in Vienna which served 150 persons a month in 1962 and about 135 a month in 1963.

The small Gemeinden in Graz, Innsbruck, Linz, and Salzburg, with a combined membership of about 700 people, had a welfare caseload of some 50 persons a month in 1963. In Graz the community reelected its board of directors in December 1963, with Fritz Strassmann as president.

The 25th anniversary of Crystal Night, November 9–10, 1938, when the Nazis set fire to and destroyed synagogues, Jewish-owned shops, and ceme-
teries (p. 253), was observed in Vienna at a huge memorial meeting organ-
ized by the Kultusgemeinde. Speakers included Mayor Franz Jonas (Social-
ist) and former Chancellor Leopold Figl (People's party), who condemned the Austrian as well as the German Nazis.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the Vienna community organized an exhibition which attracted many visitors.

Indemnification

In February 1963 the Viennese community submitted a memorandum to the minister of social welfare and the minister of finance on behalf of itself and other communities in Austria, requesting improvements in the Victims' Relief Law (Opferfürsorgegesetz). As a result, the 16th amendment to the relief law was adopted by the Austrian parliament in December 1963. It enlarged the circle of beneficiaries, increased the rate of grants, and eliminated certain hardships.

Personalia

A memorial service for President John F. Kennedy was held in Vienna's main synagogue in the presence of members of the government and the diplomatic corps.

Israeli Ambassador Nathan Peled, who resigned to return to his kibbutz, was succeeded by Michael Simon, who arrived in Vienna in June 1963.

Minister of Communications Otto Probst and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ludwig Steiner were elected first and second presidents, respectively, of the Austria-Israel Friendship League. The league's third president was Mrs. Simon, wife of the Israeli ambassador.

David Brill, the first president of the Viennese community after World War II, died in March 1963.

Boris Sapir