Political Developments

Throughout 1968 the countries of Southern Africa continued to be deeply involved in the tensions and conflicts resulting from Southern Rhodesia’s unilateral declaration of independence in 1965 and the subsequent international sanctions. South Africa’s embroilment with the United Nations over the former mandated territory of South West Africa also continued and intensified, as the Republic took further steps to incorporate the territory administratively and juridically and to apply to it the system of apartheid.

Internally, the last vestiges of non-white representation in South Africa’s government were abolished. At the same time, however, the Republic sought to establish ties with its newly-independent African neighbors, with varying degrees of success. Tensions within the ruling Nationalist Party resulted in cabinet shifts, and the death of President Theophilus E. Donges was followed by the election of Jacobus J. Fouche to that essentially ceremonial post. The repeated international monetary crises of the year, and the resultant establishment of a two-price system for gold, were of major importance for South Africa; their full impact could not as yet be assessed. Both South Africa and Zambia benefited from the continued high price of copper.

Apartheid Extended

On May 17 the South African House of Assembly passed the Prohibition of Political Interference Bill, the Separate Representation of Voters Amendment Bill, and the Coloured Persons Representative Council Amendment Bill. The first of these banned interracial political party membership, and participation in political activities of one racial group by members of another, as well as financial aid by a political party to another party of a different racial group. The law directly affected the Progressive and Liberal parties, which had racially mixed memberships. The Progressives, represented in parliament by Mrs. Helen Suzman, wished to continue their political activity and therefore became exclusively white. The Liberals, who were not represented in Parliament and whose political activities had already been seriously restricted by government action against many of the party’s leading
members and by raids on its offices, decided to disband rather than accept the ban. The second law abolished the four parliamentary seats to which the 1.6 million Cape Coloured voters had hitherto been permitted to elect white representatives. These seats had originally been allotted to the Cape Coloured population when the government of the late Dr. Daniel Malan removed them from the general electorate. The third bill established a separate Coloured Legislative Council of 40 elected and 20 appointed members, with very limited powers of taxation and administration of Coloured affairs.

The government also sought to impose apartheid on the trade union movement by threatening to revoke the registration of the Trade Union Council of South Africa (TUCSA) if it continued to permit the affiliation of African unions. (These were permitted to exist, but not to negotiate contracts for their members or to strike). When, on April 25, the annual conference of TUCSA reversed the union's December 1967 decision to end the affiliation of African natives, several white unions ended their affiliation with it. One reason for TUCSA's resistance to government pressure was that, despite legal limitations, the number of skilled African workers in industry continued to grow rapidly, and the white unions felt they had to maintain contact with them to retain control of South African industries. There simply were not enough white workers for the skilled and semi-skilled jobs in the expanding economy. In September, when the Boilermakers Society called for the banning of African workers from the metal trades outside of the Bantustans and border areas, the Johannesburg Star estimated that such a move would eliminate 80 per cent of the industry's labor force.

Meanwhile, the government sought to develop industry in areas bordering the Bantustans, which could employ only a small part of the Africans whom it wished to confine to them. The government offered tax exemption and low interest loans to industrialists establishing factories in the border areas.

Resistance to Apartheid

Resistance to government racial policies erupted at several colleges. The country's first student sit-in took place at Cape Town University on August 14, when 300 students protested the university's cancellation of African sociologist Archie Mafeje's appointment as senior lecturer, after a government warning. When students at the other English-language universities prepared to stage sympathy demonstrations, Prime Minister Balthazar J. Vorster declared that "the government and I will not tolerate this." A march of 3,000 Witwatersrand university students was called off after Vorster told the Johannesburg city council that he would "intervene swiftly" if it authorized the demonstration. The Cape Town students ended their sit-in on August 23, after the police cautioned they would not protect them in case of an attack by counter-demonstrators from the Afrikaner Stellenbosch university. On September 6, the police broke up a sit-in of 200 African
students at Fort Hare university college; the government warned white students against conducting sympathy demonstrations. The Fort Hare students were expelled, but most of them were readmitted shortly thereafter.

African underground resistance continued. The liberation committee of the Organization of African Unity withdrew its support from the Pan-Africanist Congress, which had lost much of its effectiveness because of internal dissension, but continued to support the African National Congress. Guerrillas of the latter organization reportedly infiltrated into South Africa on several occasions, while others, attempting to do so, were intercepted in neighboring countries.

**International Censure**

On January 25 the UN Security Council unanimously condemned the trial under retroactive legislation of 35 South West African Ovambo tribesmen, which the South African government was then conducting in Pretoria, and demanded the release and repatriation of the prisoners. On February 9 Judge Joseph Ludorf imposed life sentences on 19 of the defendants, 20-year prison terms on nine, and shorter sentences on five others; he acquitted two. (See AJYB, 1968 [Vol. 69], pp. 531–32). On March 14 the Security Council voted unanimously to condemn South Africa’s “flagrant defiance” of the January resolution and threatened to “determine upon effective steps” unless the government immediately released and repatriated the prisoners. In April the UN Council for South West Africa, set up by the General Assembly to take over the administration of the former mandate, unsuccessfully attempted to enter the territory. In June the South African House of Assembly approved the government’s plans for establishing a number of Bantustans in South West Africa.

The UN General Assembly’s Economic Committee voted in December to suspend South Africa from the UN Conference on Trade and Development, despite the advice of the UN’s counsel that this would be illegal. However, the ban lost out in the General Assembly.

International pressure of various other sorts continued. On April 23 the International Olympic Committee, reversing a previous decision, voted to bar South Africa from the Olympics when it seemed likely that more than 40 countries would boycott the games if it were permitted to participate. In October South Africa was expelled from the International Amateur Boxing Association.

**Relations with Black African States**

Despite such international condemnations, the South African government was able to establish fairly close relations with several of the newly-independent black states of Southern Africa. The three former British High Commission territories—Botswana and Lesotho, which were already indepen-
dent at the beginning of the year, and Swaziland, which became independent on September 6—continued to be joined with South Africa in a currency and customs union. Lesotho and Swaziland maintained close relations with South Africa in other ways: Lesotho began to import electric power from South Africa, while planning the cooperative development of its own water and power resources for export to South Africa; the government of Swaziland announced it would call on South Africa for assistance if guerrillas infiltrated its territory. Botswana, while carefully avoiding conflict with South Africa, also had close ties with Zambia, the center of African nationalist strength in the area. However, Zambia too could not avoid economic cooperation with South Africa, its second most important trading partner, despite its political hostility to that country's white supremacism.

Especially close relations existed between South Africa and Malawi, where President Hastings Kamuzu Banda was on much better terms with his white than his black neighbors. (During the year he asserted substantial territorial claims against both Tanzania and Zambia, whose leaders replied by suggesting that he was acting at the instance of South Africa, Rhodesia, and Portugal, and was planning to use troops from those states to enforce his claims.) South Africa made large loans to Malawi for the construction of a new capital and for railroad development.

This effort to develop closer contact with black African states, even if that meant exempting their diplomatic and trade representatives from apartheid regulations, had the support of the verligte (enlightened) wing of the Nationalists. A more extreme position was taken by the party's verkrampte (narrow-minded) wing. During the year, the verligte sector appeared to be in the ascendant; Albert Hertzog, leader of the verkrampte wing, and three of his followers were dismissed from the cabinet. But Mrs. Helen Suzman pointed out in parliament, and government spokesmen agreed, that this had no effect on the government's internal policy.

**Rhodesia**

During the year the government of Ian Smith and the British government made several tentative efforts to reach agreement on ending the conflict resulting from Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence. They foundered over the Smith regime's adamant refusal to consider any agreement that threatened the rule of the white minority or permitted any sort of British interference on behalf of the black majority. A meeting between Smith and British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, on board HMS Fearless in October, ended without agreement despite Wilson's apparent willingness to break his pledge to the Commonwealth and parliament that there would be no independence before majority rule (NIBMAR). The stumbling block was his insistence on constitutional provisions that would permit elected African members of Rhodesia's parliament to block any amendment affecting "entrenched clauses" for the protection of the rights of Africans, and guarantee
the right of appeal from Rhodesian courts to the judicial committee of the British Privy Council.

Meanwhile, the Smith government introduced proposals for a new constitution. A commission, appointed by Smith in April 1967, brought in its report a year later. It recommended a system guaranteeing white control of the government for an indefinite time, but enabling Africans to increase their parliamentary representation, as their incomes and education rose, until they achieved a maximum 50 per cent membership.

The committee's proposal of eventual "parity" aroused violent opposition among white Rhodesians, and Smith substituted for it another, suggesting a parliament elected on the basis recommended by the committee for a period of five years, during which there was no chance that the African representation would even approach parity. At the end of that period, separate white and black "provincial" legislatures would each exercise some powers, while central authority would be vested in a parliament in which the white and black "provinces" would be represented in proportion to the amount of income tax they paid. It was estimated that this would give the African majority one or two seats in the central parliament because of the tremendous disproportion between black and white incomes.

However, these proposals, too, met with vigorous opposition from the right wing of Smith's Rhodesian Front. He was able to carry them by only narrow majorities in the National Executive and National Congress of his party. Several cabinet ministers, led by Internal Affairs Minister William Harper, resigned from the government and party, and went into opposition. The South African government, on whose economic support Rhodesia was completely dependent in the face of sanctions, and whose military help it was likely to need against increasing African guerrilla activity, was believed to be pressing the Smith regime to continue its efforts to reach an agreement with Britain.

Two new opposition parties came into existence, one white and one predominantly black. The Center party, which urged the government to make concessions in the interests of agreement, had the support of some business interests fearing the adverse effects on the economy of continued and intensified sanctions. (Rhodesian tobacco lost the major part of its world market, and what was sold went at sacrifice prices.) The Democratic party, pledged to the principle of "one man, one vote," was led by Agrippa W. Mukahlera, a former member of the outlawed Zimbabwe African People's Union. It was joined by Chad Chipunza, a leading member of the United People's party, the African parliamentary opposition group.

Zambia continued to benefit from the high price of copper, and had a substantial trade surplus despite very large expenditures for economic development. A pipeline from Dar-es-Salaam, completed two months ahead of schedule, ended Zambia's dependence on inadequate roads for the importation of fuel. Plans were announced for the expansion of copper mining, for
a copper fabricating plant capable of meeting most needs of the independent black African states, and for a sulphuric acid plant to satisfy the same market.

In April President Kenneth Kaunda announced that the government would purchase 51 per cent control of a number of leading companies, mostly in consumer goods, building, and transportation. He also said that the government had no intention of nationalizing the copper industry, but the companies were not allowed to pay out more than half their profits as dividends to their foreign stockholders, with the remainder to be reinvested in Zambia. A government company was set up to coordinate the marketing of copper.

Internal tribal and religious tensions created difficulties. As a measure against tribalism, President Kaunda announced that no candidate of the United National Independence party would be allowed to run in his own tribal area in the forthcoming 1969 general elections. One opposition group, the United party, was dissolved after tribal and party strife led to violence. An official of the main opposition group, the African National Congress, was indicted for insulting the President; he pleaded guilty and apologized. The party leader, Harry Nkumbula, was indicted on a similar charge; he pleaded not guilty and was acquitted. The government offered amnesty to several thousand members of the Lumpa sect, who had fled to the Congo after the fighting between their group and its neighbors, but the refugees refused to return until their "prophet" Alice Lenshina was released from detention. There were also some instances of mob attacks on Jehovah's Witnesses.

However, Zambia's main problems continued to come from its white-ruled neighbors. Despite the construction of the pipeline and some improvements in road transport, the effort to avoid using the Rhodesian Railway continued to cost Zambia heavily. The World Bank made loans for road improvement and forestry development, and Chinese technicians began to arrive for the construction of the Tanzania-Zambia railroad which China was building.

There were a number of raids by Portuguese forces across the Zambian border and some incursions from Rhodesia, as well as threats of massive attack in retaliation for Zambia's hospitality to nationalist refugees. President Kaunda therefore began negotiations for the purchase of fighter planes and anti-aircraft and ground-to-ground missiles. There were reports that Britain had agreed to furnish the desired weapons on a commercial basis.

MAURICE J. GOLDBLOOM
South African Jewish Community

The Jewish community shared in the general prosperity of South Africa through 1968, resulting mainly in larger contributions to Zionist and communal funds and the extension of Jewish education. Student unrest in other countries produced a backwash at South African universities, and the participation of Jewish students led to a confrontation between the minister of police and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

Population

According to an estimate by Gustav Saron, general secretary of the Board of Deputies, South Africa's Jewish population at year's end was 120,000, or 3.8 per cent of the European (white) population. The last official census of 1960 set the Jewish community at 114,762 out of a European (white) population of 3,088,492 and a total population (all races) of 16,002,797.

Civic and Political Status

As equal citizens of South Africa, Jews continued to participate in all branches of public life. Of the seven Jews in the legislature (six in the House of Assembly, one in the Senate), Charles Barnett, representing a Cape Coloured constituency, died in February. Nine Jews continued as members of provincial councils. Johannesburg elected Israel Schlapobersky its tenth Jewish mayor, while, in East London, David Lazarus completed his third term as mayor. Several other towns also had Jewish mayors or deputy mayors.

In August Deputy Attorney General of the Transvaal Percy Yutar was appointed attorney general of the Orange Free State, the first Jew to be elevated to this post.

The Jewish Board of Deputies addressed a letter of felicitation and loyalty to South African President Jacobus Johannes Fouché, on his election in February. Jewish spiritual and lay leaders were among the invited guests at his installation in April. In his former post as minister of Agricultural Technical Services, Fouché visited Israel and praised its national spirit and progress.

In the course of the year, various persons prominent in civic and academic life paid tribute to the contributions of South African Jews to their country.

Student Unrest

Student unrest during the year erupted in demonstrations in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Criticizing these demonstrations in a speech at Potchef-
stroom in August, the then newly appointed Minister of Police Louwrens Muller declared that many of the ringleaders were not South Africans, but exchange students from other countries. It was noticeable, he continued, that many of the leaders of the student protests had Jewish names. At the same time, he wished to make it clear that he had no feelings against the Jewish community, that in fact some of his best friends were Jews. Because he knew that Jews in general were good South Africans and, as such, concerned about the situation, he wished to appeal to them to “put their hand in their own bosom” and exert an influence on their young people “so that they will at least respect authority. We don’t expect cooperation in all respects. We only expect that chaos and disruption should not be sown.” He also made reference to the number of Jewish names among listed Communists.

Opposition leaders and newspapers, and some of the Jewish student leaders, immediately accused Muller of antisemitism. Johannesburg Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper and Chief Reform Minister Arthur Super criticized him from their pulpits, and defended the students’ right of protest. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies issued the following statement:

It is with concern that we note . . . the Hon. Mr. S. L. Muller . . . appealed to the Jewish community to restrain its youth from participating in such protests.

We do not regard it as our function to express any opinion on the validity or otherwise of the student protests, but there are certain assumptions and implications in the minister’s statement which cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged.

To fasten responsibility on the Jewish community for the actions of its individual members inevitably furthers antisemitism, albeit unwittingly.

As has been repeatedly pointed out, neither the Jewish community nor any other section of the population of South Africa can be held responsible for any action which individuals take in the political field . . .

While we wholeheartedly endorse the vital importance of maintaining law and order and reject all forms of subversion, it must be emphasized that there can be no political regimentation. Any attempt by a Jewish body to interfere with the legitimate political freedom of the individual Jewish citizen would be immediately repudiated.

Muller responded with clarifying statements to the press, fully agreeing with the Board of Deputies that the Jewish community could not be held responsible for the actions of individuals and stressing that he had never intended to hold it responsible:

What I said about Jews and Jewish students has been grossly misunderstood and wrongly interpreted. Responsible people, once we have set the record straight, will understand the spirit in which I appealed to the Jewish community to help keep order and peace in South Africa. I have a profound regard for the Jewish
community and I emphatically have no feelings against Jews. I am happy to count many prominent members of the Jewish community among my closest personal friends. Last Wednesday I named Jewish students who were prominent in disturbances at our universities and I felt it logical and fair, therefore, to appeal to the Jewish community to help us all maintain peacefully the proper functions of universities. My appeal was clearly directed at all other groups in South Africa as well. I would, if I felt it necessary, call on the Dutch Reformed Church or the Roman Catholic Church or any other religious or social group, to help maintain peace and order in the country.

Prime Minister Balthazar Johannes Vorster, in an interview published by the Johannesburg Nationalist daily Die Transvaler repudiated allegations, made by opposition leaders in comments on Muller’s speech, that the National party was antisemitic. He said Muller’s speech and his later clarifications spoke for themselves. Opposition leaders, Vorster continued, had for long vainly tried to give the impression that the National party was antisemitic, and the new accusations were “no less transparent and fatuous than previous efforts.” The Jewish community, he said, was aware of this and knew the government’s policy. He thought it better for Jewish as for other parents to be less hypersensitive to criticism voiced in their interest by a responsible minister. He believed that responsible members of the Jewish community would take it in that spirit.

Later Muller received leaders of the Board of Deputies at his office in Pretoria. His press statement on the meeting said it “served a useful purpose in helping to clarify misunderstandings, and the board’s representatives reaffirmed that the Jewish community was no less concerned than other sections to ensure that law and order be maintained and the peaceful development of the republic safeguarded.” Nationalist newspapers supporting Vorster and Muller said the government’s record, over the twenty years it had been in office, proved its goodwill to the Jewish community. Several Jews who knew Muller personally wrote letters to the press, confirming his goodwill and his friendship with individual Jews.

**Israeli Criticism of South Africa**

In the UN General Assembly on May 24, Israel Ambassador Joseph Tekoah reportedly endorsed attacks made by some delegates on South Africa’s continued administration of Southwest Africa, and pledged Israel’s support of UN efforts to remove the territory from the jurisdiction which South Africa exercised under the League of Nations mandate. Tekoah’s speech was sharply censured by pro-government papers in South Africa, which pointed out that such criticism rang hollow, coming from a country which also found itself compelled to ignore UN resolutions prejudicial to its interests.

At a meeting of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, its chairman, Maurice Porter expressed “surprise and regret” at Tekoah’s speech. Though
he understood Israel’s special problems in the United Nations, he deplored any statement or expression tending to impede the restoration of harmonious relations between South Africa and Israel.

In Parliament, Foreign Minister Hilgard Muller indirectly commented on the statement in a reply, on May 30, to United party members Jan Moolman and Etienne Malan, who urged that South Africa’s appointment of diplomatic representatives in Israel was long overdue. Muller explained that South Africa had diplomatic relations with Israel; that the possibility of exchanging diplomats was constantly receiving the government’s attention. Israel, which had many interests in South Africa, maintained a mission in the Republic, although there was no South African mission in Israel. Muller went on to say Israel had failed to replace the temporary chargé d’affaires, who headed its mission, with a permanent envoy. To this he added that he hoped Israel would realize that the tendency of its spokesmen at the UN and elsewhere to “try to win the favor of others by making hostile statements on South Africa’s domestic affairs” will not benefit it, for “it is not the right procedure to win friends.”

Antisemitism

Despite the general decline of antisemitic agitation in South Africa, fringe groups and individuals continued to distribute antisemitic literature. Where deemed necessary, the Board of Deputies continued to make representations about these activities to the authorities. In some cases, local antisemites acted as agents for the distribution of anti-Jewish propaganda material imported from kindred spirits and groups abroad, chiefly from the United States.

In August Dagbreek, a leading pro-government newspaper, exposed a secret organization with the name Die Nuwe Ruiterwag (The New Mounted Guard), and accused it of being anti-Jewish, anti-Negro, and anti-government. According to the paper, this Ku Klux Klan-like organization, with secret initiation rites pledging members to loyalty on pain of death, worked through a system of cells. Its leaders were said to be Dr. Dawid du Toit, a resident of Wakkerstroom, Transvaal; Martin du Preez and S. P. le Roux, both Pretoria civil servants, and Kobus Schoeman, a wealthy Potchefstroom farmer.

Du Toit and Schoeman in statements to the press, denied the organization was anti-Jewish, anti-Negro, or anti-government. Subsequent reports said the organization was breaking up.

Communal Organization

Communal life proceeded in a routine manner through the existing national and local organizations. Plans for the erection of a communal center for Johannesburg Jewry were announced in November by the Board of
Deputies. Funds for the structure came from the sale of the site and premises of the old Wanderers View Hebrew Congregation, presented to the Board some time ago after Jews had moved from the area and the congregation no longer had the membership or resources to maintain itself. In the intervening years the neighborhood improved and the price paid for the property was high enough to cover the acquisition of an alternative site and the erection of the structure. Plans for the new center, to be completed in three years, called for meeting halls, a library, museum, and archives, facilities for youth activities, offices for the Board of Deputies and its associated bodies, as well as a small synagogue in memory of the donor congregation.

The nationally representative Union of Jewish Women held its 14th biennial conference in Johannesburg in May, attended by delegates from its 65 branches throughout the country. The conference reviewed the Union's varied activities, including participation in local welfare activities; promotion of goodwill between Jews and non-Jews; sponsoring friendship clubs, and other services for the aged; running day nurseries and soup kitchens for nonwhites, and meeting the cultural needs of members through an extensive adult education program. The Union also participated in work to assist certain Israeli institutions; cooperated with the Board of Deputies in servicing youth, and conducted the women's campaign for the United Communal Fund. Sadie Kirsch was elected to succeed Pearl Mandelstam as national president.

The Hebrew Order of David, the largest Jewish fraternal order in South Africa, held its 21st biennial congress in Johannesburg in July; it opened its 30th lodge in September. B'nai B'rith, with fewer lodges in South Africa, worked towards district lodge status.

Special memorial services and meetings, sponsored by the Board of Deputies to commemorate the victims of the Nazi holocaust a quarter of a century ago, drew large attendances in the main centers.

Two veteran communal officials, Harry Abt, cultural officer of the Board of Deputies, and Mrs. Millie Levy, editor of the Board's journal, Jewish Affairs, retired in July. Chaim Lewis took on both posts after resigning from the editorship of the Zionist Record. Assistant editor Henry Katzew was appointed the Zionist Record's new editor.

Leon Feldberg, founder-editor of the South African Jewish Times, retired after disposing of his controlling interest in the holding company to Felix Stark, publisher of a group of trade journals. This writer, formerly assistant editor, took over the publication's editorship.

**Fund Raising**

Isaac Toubin, executive director of the American Association of Jewish Education, visited South Africa in March-April at the invitation of the Board of Deputies, and delivered a series of lectures for the United Communal Fund, the fiscal agency for the main national Jewish organizations. The
campaign recorded a higher level of contributions, and increased totals made it possible to increase allocations to participant bodies.

At the annual conference of the Cape Council of the Board of Deputies in Cape Town in June, its chairman, Sydney Walt, criticized the affluent section of the community for not adequately contributing to communal fund raising ("the middle class man today is carrying the community," he said), and Gustav Saron deplored the fact that "we have not yet been able to mobilize the same community-wide support for local causes which has been so welcome a feature of support for Israel."

Increased totals were registered in campaigns for Jewish education (p. 454).

The decision of the Jewish Agency to terminate its allocations to Zionist parties was criticized by South African Zionist leaders who were concerned that the Agency decision would inject party fund-raising campaigns into the local communal picture. The Board of Deputies resisted plans by the Zionist Revisionist Organization to run a party fund-raising campaign, and this was deferred until 1969.

**Religion**

The religious life of South African Jewry was ruffled by controversy between lay and spiritual leaders on the question of what came to be called "minister-poaching" (the attempt of some congregations, to attract ministers of other congregations by offering them higher salaries). On March 3 the Federation of Synagogues of South Africa issued a call to affiliated congregations to observe a uniform code of practice making calls to serving ministers subject to agreement between the congregations concerned, and providing that "not less than six months" notice be given by ministers who intended to resign from their congregations.

In April, the South African Rabbinical Association issued a statement expressing "extreme regret and resentment" at the Federation of Synagogues taking "unilateral action" in matters concerning the professional interests of synagogue officials, and alleging that the effect of such action would be to establish "cartels" or "gentlemen's agreements" between congregations which would "freeze promotions and prevent officials from improving their status and material position."

The situation became deadlocked in the ensuing controversy; but in November lay leaders of Hebrew Congregations, attending a meeting convened by the Federation of Synagogues in Johannesburg, urged that the Federation should set up a special board to deal with the appointment of religious functionaries and introduce a uniform scale of salaries. The proposal was referred to the Federation's 1969 conference.

Scandals involving a couple of rabbis, and some extravagant statements by other rabbis, led Maurice Porter, chairman of the Board of Deputies, to say at its meeting in November that though recent alleged actions by one or
two individuals "disturbed many of us, any tendency to reflect upon the rabbinate as a whole must greatly be deplored." He pointed out that the rabbis and ministers as a group have served the community well. At the same time, he appealed to members of the rabbinate to "share with all other communal leaders responsibility to maintain the spirit of unity which has been so characteristic of South African Jewry and has often been the envy of communities overseas." Ways must be sought, he cautioned, to resolve any "differences of opinion on matters like religion, education" which, of course exist, "without creating unnecessary division and controversy."

The year saw the departure from South African Jewry of one of its most eminent spiritual leaders. Professor Israel Abrahams, who retired from the Chief Rabbinate of Orthodox Jewry in the Cape and settled in Israel. For over 30 years he had been the guiding force in Jewish religious life in the Cape and had won the respect of the non-Jewish as well as the Jewish community. An erudite scholar and writer, he had also been professor of Hebrew at Cape Town University for 30 years. Speakers at communal farewells held in his honor stressed that it was going to be difficult, and might take a long time, to replace him. Rabbi Maurice Konviser, former veteran spiritual leader of Salisbury Jewry, agreed to serve until Cape Town Jewry secured a new Chief Rabbi.

Rabbi Eugene Duschinsky resigned as rabbi of the Country Communities (an office maintained by the Board of Deputies) to become spiritual leader of Cape Town's New Hebrew Congregation and head of the Cape Town Beth Din. Leaders of the Board of Deputies paid tribute to his sterling work to assist rural communities.

The Reform movement recorded steady membership growth. Jerry Idelson, one of the founders of the movement in South Africa, retired as musical director of the United Progressive Jewish Congregation of Johannesburg after 35 years of service, and was feted by the congregation on his 75th birthday.

New synagogues were consecrated in Krugersdorp (Orthodox) and Sandringham, Johannesburg (Reform) and a new communal hall in Northcliff, Johannesburg (Orthodox).

Education

Jewish day schools again led progress in education. The Ulpan scheme for a three months Israel study tour by a group of Jewish day school pupils was further expanded. Starting with 23 pupils in 1963, it increased to 36 in 1965, 52 in 1966, 80 in 1967, and 120 in 1968.

A religious controversy developed over the 1968 Ulpan. In the past, Ulpan groups always used Jerusalem as base; but the 1968 arrangements provided for 80 students in Jerusalem and 40 at the Sde Boker Midrasha. The Mizrachi and the Rabbinical Association objected to the Midrasha, alleging it was an anti-Orthodox institution that did not conform with the South
African Board of Jewish Education's "national traditional" policy. Louis Sachs, chairman of the educational board denied that the Midrasha was anti-Orthodox; maintained that it fully observed kashrut under the supervision of the Beersheba rabbinate; and testified that, during a visit to the Midrasha, he personally made arrangements for full facilities to be available for Orthodox religious observance by the South African group. The board resisted extremist pressure, and the project was carried out as arranged.

At the invitation of the Board of Jewish Education, secretary-general of Rafi in Israel, Simeon Peres, visited South Africa in May, and Israel's Attorney General Gideon Hausner in August, to head fund-raising campaigns for the Jewish day schools. Both efforts brought in higher totals, with record individual contributions of R100,000 (about $143,000), R25,000 and R13,000. Frank James donated R50,000 (some $72,000) for the construction of a hall for the King David high school at Linksfield, Johannesburg, which was named in his honor.

In November the University of Witwatersrand announced the establishment of a full-time Chair of Hebrew; Rabbi Solomon Rappaport, who held the professorship on a part-time basis in the past, was appointed full-time head of the department.

**Zionism and Relations with Israel**

In the wake of South African Jewry's 1967 record effort for maximum aid to Israel after the six-day war, Zionist work continued at a heightened tempo. Israel's 20th anniversary, in May, was celebrated at mammoth functions and drew record crowds in Johannesburg and Cape Town, and at rallies arranged by other Jewish communities throughout the country.

Women Zionist societies recorded increases in membership, stimulated by the Israel emergency and the six-day war. This, as well as more intense activity, was reflected at the 18th biennial South African Women's Zionist conference, held in Johannesburg in August and attended by an unprecedented number of delegates and observers. Guests of honor were Mrs. Channi Bergmann, vice-chairman of the World WIZO executive, and Gideon Hausner. Mrs. Jeanette Davidoff succeeded Mrs. Ray Katz as president.

A strong South African delegation attended the Jerusalem economic conference called by Israel Premier Levi Eshkol in April. On their return, the delegates set up an Israel-South Africa Trade Association with Morris Lubner as chairman, to promote trade between the two countries.

Colonel Jacob Monbaz who completed his tour of duty as Israel consul general to South Africa in July, received praise and tokens of esteem at receptions before his departure.

Keneset members Shmuel Tamir and Eliezer Shostak of Israel's Free Center party visited South Africa in June on behalf of the Israel-South Africa Friendship League, which they founded in Israel. They met cabinet ministers, parliamentarians of all parties, and persons prominent in academic,
business, and civic life. Their farewell statement said that their “goodwill mission and . . . efforts to promote better understanding and closer relations between Israel and South Africa” found universal welcome and evinced keen interest. Among other distinguished visitors from Israel were archeologist Yigael Yadin, who came on a brief lecture tour in March-April and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Witwatersrand University.

The vacation camps, held annually by the various Zionist Youth movements, again attracted large numbers. Several youth groups left during the year on aliyah to Israel. In December Joseph Amiel, the Board of Deputies youth department director, took a group of young Jews to Israel for a leadership course. He also arranged a special tour for Johannesburg junior city councillors, most of them non-Jewish.

Social Services

At the annual general meeting in November of the Johannesburg Hevra Kaddisha, the Jewish community’s largest welfare body, its chairman Oscar Getz warned that welfare costs were rising, and that the ratio of the aged was increasing. The society’s expenditure rose to R361,736 (nearly $520,000) for the fiscal year, the major portion of it for relief and rehabilitation. The Witwatersrand Hebrew Benevolent Association granted interest-free loans in the amount of R214,000 during the fiscal year.

The Witwatersrand Jewish Women’s Benevolent and Welfare Society marked its 75th anniversary by announcing plans for building the “Benevolent House” as headquarters for its diverse activities.

Jewish homes for the aged and orphanages in Johannesburg and Cape Town continued their work. Five donors contributed R80,000 (nearly $115,000) to a campaign to help the Cape Jewish home for the aged over a financial crisis. The South African ORT completed reorganization of its activities.

Cultural Activities

Cultural activities included year-round lecture and study programs conducted through their branches by the Women’s Zionist Council, Union of Jewish Women, Histadruth Ivrith, Yiddish Cultural Federation, and synagogues and youth groups.

Books by South African Jewish writers published during the year included Prof. Israel Abrahams’ English translation of Umberto Cassuto’s commentary on Exodus; Sects and Separatism During the Second Jewish Commonwealth by Leah Bronner; The Stories of Elijah and Elisha as Polemics against Baal Worship by Leah Bronner; South African Jewry, 1967–8, a guide, directory, and who’s who of South African Jewry, edited by Leon Feldberg; A Shield About Me, letters by South African settlers and volunteers in Israel before, during, and after the six-day war, edited by

**Personalia**

Cape Town's Philip Blaiberg, a Jewish dentist, became the world's second heart transplant patient under Dr. Chris Barnard, at the beginning of 1968. (The first patient, Louis Washkansky, also a Jew, died 18 days after surgery.) Blaiberg enjoyed a complete convalescence and at the time of writing was the world's longest surviving heart transplant case. Jewish anesthetist B. Ozinsky and cardiologist Velve Schire were members of Barnard's heart transplant team.

David Cohen, senior Cape Town barrister who, in December 1967, was appointed senior Crown counsel of Swaziland, was elevated to solicitor general when Swaziland attained its independence.


*EDGAR BERNSTEIN*