Latin America

Argentina

After two and a half years of General Juan Carlos Onganía’s revolutionary government, Argentina’s economic, social, and political problems remained far from solved. The June 1966 revolution abolished constitutional rights; dissolved political parties; modified the federal system; ended the independence of the judiciary system and the autonomy of the national universities, and established government by decree of the “Statute and Aims of the Revolution.”

From the start, its leaders proclaimed that the fulfillment of their aims would take several years, and that, until such time, no democratic elections could be held. Yet, Onganía told the military leaders in May 1968 that the government was heading toward representative democracy, not a corporate state. Opposition to the government, mainly by past leaders of the banned political parties, was strong because liberals feared that “its anti-democratic tendency was leading it towards a nationalist philosophy and even a corporate state.” The issue of elections was particularly complicated since even those urging a democratic process felt that, politically, the country was not ready for it. And this because internal struggles divided and considerably weakened the banned parties. In June ex-President Arturo Frondizi told the Foreign Press Association that the revolution would terminate either in a personal dictatorship or in premature elections.

In a state-of-the-nation address, in July, President Onganía outlined the course of the revolution: The primary or reconstruction stage would be completed at the end of 1968 or early in 1969, to be followed by social reconstruction. Decentralization of the federal government would continue to permit greater autonomy of the provinces; the economy was to be geared to serve the nation.

Internal struggles in government circles frequently resulted in the resignation of ministers and department aides. In August Argentine Ambassador to Washington Alvaro Alsogaray asked to be recalled. Two weeks later, Onganía announced the forced retirement of the commanders-in-chief of the army, navy, and air force. According to former Minister of Health and Wel-
fare Raul Puigbó, who had resigned earlier in June, "there was a dangerous lack of understanding between the government and the people." Strong government control was felt in many areas. In March, 200 North American Mormon missionaries were refused visas. People were held by the police for 24 hours, just for identification purposes. In May all foreign-language newspapers were required to publish their lead editorial also in Spanish translation. In July Alberto Constantini resigned as general manager of a television network on the ground that the ministry constantly took exception to its new programs.

In June the federal government intervened in a bitter controversy between judicial authorities and the local police in Santa Fé province. The police broke up a court-authorized student demonstration in the city of Rosario, marking the 50th anniversary of the Argentine university reform movement. The three judges responsible for the authorization were ousted by federal order. Student protests throughout the country, demanding a return to the system of student participation in university government, were met by police brutality. (University reforms had been abolished by the revolution.) Radio and television news reports on student unrest were censored.

The Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT; General Confederation of Labor), consisting of 150 labor unions as well as other independent unions (AJYB, 1968 [Vol. 69], pp. 394-395), protested against the government-imposed wage freeze as well as other measures, such as the appointment of official trustees for the unions and the abrogation of their legal status. There were also bitter attacks on the strike prohibition and the cancellation of union wage agreements.

The fiscal policy of Adalbert Krieger Vasena, minister of economy and labor, was aimed at keeping the peso stable, obtaining foreign loans, stabilizing the cost of living, and cutting down the huge number of civil service employees. The 18-month wage freeze only partially kept down the cost of living, since some products, such as foodstuffs, rose up to 30 per cent in 1968. State enterprises still operated at great loss, with little improvement of service. One of the great nuisances to the citizen continued to be the telephone company, which had a waiting list of 50,000 for new telephone installations. In June the government's new slum clearance operation removed one of the many slum areas in Buenos Aires.

Only three of Argentina's 22 provinces were rich enough to finance without federal aid their provincial governments and public works programs. Greater Buenos Aires had eight million people crammed into 3,000 square kilometers, while the other 14 million inhabitants were sparsely sprinkled over the remaining two and a half million square kilometers.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY**

The Jewish community followed the national trend, and became highly urbanized. Eighty per cent of the estimated Jewish population of 500,000 lived in
Buenos Aires; the rest was scattered in 500 cities. The main centers of Jewish population were: Buenos Aires, with 380,000; Rosario, 15,000; Cordoba, 8,000, and Santa Fé, 4,000. There were approximately 55,000 Jews of Sephardi origin, of whom 40,000 came from Arabic- and 15,000 from Spanish-speaking countries.

Communal Organizations

While the overwhelming majority of Jews were not affiliated with any kind of Jewish institution, the urbanized middle-class secularist and Zionist-orientated community was highly organized. This sector of the community could be divided roughly into a) organizations reflecting the various Israeli political parties; b) religious institutions founded by immigrants from the various countries of Europe; c) philanthropic and sports organizations with little positive or active Jewish identification. Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews generally maintained separate clubs, synagogues, philanthropic groups, cemeteries, and campaigns for Israel.

The Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA) was composed of representatives from all important sectors and institutions of the Jewish community. Its main function was to deal with government officials on issues affecting the Jews, especially antisemitism. The national convention of DAIA, held in July, was attended by 244 delegates from the entire country. Its president, Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, was named vice-president of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations.

The Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA), the central Ashkenazi communal body which was the largest in the world, had a membership of 43,000 in Buenos Aires. Its president was Tobias Kamenszain. AMIA’s 1968 budget was 1,196,000,000 pesos ($3,468,400), an increase of 40 per cent over the preceding year. With this income, derived from membership dues and burials, it supported 85 schools and 21 organizations: 476 million pesos were allocated for education, an increase of 57.3 per cent over the preceding year; 121 million for philanthropy; 72 million for various institutions; 57 million for youth activities; 36 million for cultural activities; 25 million for religious activities, and 12 million for the Federación de Comunidades Israelitas (Federation of Jewish Communities).

AMIA’s cultural activities included sponsorship of recitals, lectures, theater groups, publications, and the annual book fair in October, where 21,000 Spanish, Hebrew, and Yiddish books were sold at large discounts to 4,000 buyers. The social service department assisted more than 5,500 persons. AMIA’s youth department was the umbrella organization for 20 youth centers in Buenos Aires and, together with the Hebraica, sponsored the Escuela de Instructores y Técnicos en Trabajo Institucional (School for Instructors and Technicians in Institutional Work). EDITTI, under the direction of Dr. Rosa Resnick, offered the first organized training program for youth leaders.
AMIA invited Dr. Itzjak Margulis, director of JDC in Israel, to help coordinate all medical, social-service, and philanthropic groups of the Argentine community. The Hospital Israelita, Hogar Israelita de Burzaco (home for the aged at Burzaco), Liga Argentina-Israeli de Lucha contra la Tuberculosis, Bikur Holim (visiting the sick), Comedores Populares (free dining facilities) and other smaller groups met in July to discuss this project as well as the development of new programs, investigations, and finances.

The Federación de Comunidades Israelitas, uniting 145 communities in Argentina, was supported mainly by AMIA. Its function was to deal with problems of Jewish education, fortify Jewish cultural life, and maintain ties between the communities and the central organization. Of the affiliated communities, which were divided into eight regions, 80 per cent had less than 100 member families; four had between 100 and 300; six had between 500 and 800, and seven more than 800 member families (including the Buenos Aires AMIA).

In August the eighth congress of the Federation was held in the capital, with the participation of delegates from the affiliated communities in the interior and from neighboring Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Peru, Brazil, and Venezuela. Invited guests included Israeli Minister of Religion Zerah Warhaftig, Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses D. Rosen, and Natan Rotenstreich, rector of the Hebrew University.

The Asociación Comunidad Israelita Sefaradi de Buenos Aires, the central organization of the Sephardi Jews of Turkish and Balkan origin, led by Chief Rabbi Aharon Angel, had close to 3,000 member families. Jews of Moroccan origin were organized in the Congregación Latina, with Rabbi Saadia Benzaquen as spiritual leader, and the Jews of Syrian-Lebanese origin in the Asociación Israelita Sefaradi Argentina, under Rabbi Itzchak Shehebar. The three institutions maintained separate synagogues, schools, and cemeteries. Among other Sephardi organizations were various sports and social clubs and DESA (Delegación de Entidades Sefaraditas Argentinas), which was the Sephardic Campaña Unida (United Israel Appeal) and included all sectors of Sephardim. Their school system, including six day schools, was generally independent of the Jewish Board of Education.

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

In 1968 the American Jewish Committee undertook a demographic study of the Comunidad Israelita Sefaradi. Interviews were conducted among 2,177 families that were affiliated with the Comunidad and 500 families that were not, but belonged to the same Sephardi group. The survey showed that 95 per cent of them had received some kind of general education (only 10 per cent completed university studies), but that only very few had some Jewish education. Affiliation with Jewish organizations, other than their own Comunidad, was negligible, especially among the young people. Fifteen per cent of the members were married to Ashkenazi Jews and 7 per cent to
non-Jews; among nonmembers the percentages were 23 and 33, respectively. Twenty-eight per cent of the members and 13 per cent of the nonmembers were foreign-born.

While most of those interviewed belonged to the socio-economic middle class, there were marked differences in occupation between the older and younger men (over 24 years of age): Forty per cent of the older men were businessmen, as compared with 15 per cent of the younger; 20 per cent of the older, and 33 per cent of the younger men were employees; 8 per cent of the older, and 13 per cent of the younger men were in professions.

Communal Activities

AMIA, DAIA, and OSA (Organización Sionista Argentina) sponsored a huge memorial meeting to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto. Tsivia Lubetkin, one of the ghetto fighters, came from Israel to be the featured speaker. In May the same organizations sponsored a community-wide celebration of the 20th anniversary of Israel's independence. Thirty thousand people heard the then secretary general of Mapai, Golda Meir, and local dignitaries pay tribute to Israel. La Nacion, one of Argentina's most important dailies, commented: "The Argentine-Israeli meeting of friendship held in Luna Park, will pass into history as one of the great public assemblies."

In October Sephardi groups held a meeting to protest against the situation of the Jews in Arab countries. In the same month, the Confederación Juvenil Judeo Argentina celebrated its 30th anniversary. Originally, the Confederación grouped together only Zionist organizations; it now included all youth groups.

The Instituto Judío Argentino de Cultura e Información (Argentine Jewish Institute for Culture and Information) sponsored the first continental seminar of Institutes of Human Relations in October. Delegates from Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, and the United States participated in this three-day meeting devoted to antisemitism and discrimination, interfaith relations, social problems in South America, preservation of Jewish identity, and relations with Israel. The Latin American office of the American Jewish Committee conducted several seminars dealing with Jewish identity, applied sociology, and leadership problems and training.

Thirty Argentine delegates participated in the fifth conference of Latin American Jewish Communities, sponsored by the World Jewish Congress in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October. Moises Goldman was the Latin American president of WJC.

The second Latin American conference of the World Council of Jewish Women, was held in April under the auspices of the Consejo Argentino de Mujeres Israeliitas, a social work agency.
Education

For the first time in many years, enrollment increased in both Jewish primary and secondary schools in the capital and interior of the country. Jaime Raichenberg, president of the Consejo de Educación Israelita (Jewish Board of Education), the central organization for Argentina, cited the following figures in his annual report: A total of 16,000 students were enrolled in Jewish schools in Buenos Aires and surrounding areas. Of these, 5,200 attended kindergartens, 9,000 primary schools, and 2,000 secondary schools. In the summer of 1968 there were 7,000 children in Jewish-sponsored summer camps, including day camps. AMIA granted approximately 1,000 scholarships to students.

When, in March, the state changed the schedules in some public schools to all-day sessions, the Jewish Board of Education encouraged the creation of Jewish all-day schools. This tendency to transform Hebrew schools into all-day schools strongly affected Jewish education. Half of the pupils in the elementary classes were enrolled in 26 all-day schools. With the financial aid of AMIA and the educational control of the board, these new schools helped overcome some of the educational problems of Argentina's Jewish community. However, some of the schools had little to do with Judaism, except that they were sponsored by Jewish organizations (mostly cooperatives) and financed with Jewish funds. There continued to be a severe shortage of capable teachers. The great majority of Jewish school-age children still received no Jewish education, and many of the parents who did send their children to Jewish schools remained aloof from Jewish life.

In the interior of the country, there were 49 Jewish schools; 17 of them received monthly subsidies from AMIA. There were seven secondary schools and four all-day schools, with a total of some 4,000 students. Seventy percent of all students were enrolled in 11 schools, while the remaining 31 required only one teacher for their enrolled students. The first all-day school was founded in Córdoba; it had an attendance of 800.

AMIA's Seminario Docente para Escuelas Israelitas of Buenos Aires, the most important Argentine teachers' seminary, had an enrollment of 230 students from all parts of the country. AMIA was erecting a new building to house the seminario as well as a model high school. The Seminario Docente de Moisés Ville, with 210 students, provided 60 percent of the teachers in the provinces. For the first time, also, graduates of the teachers seminaries at Bahía Blanca and La Plata entered the teaching profession. The Casa Estudiantil Moshé Sharet, founded in 1966, housed 83 university students from different parts of the country. Thirty of these students were on scholarship; ten studied in Jewish institutions. The Casa had its own library, and sponsored many cultural and social events for the students.

The Jewish Board of Education established an institute for kindergarten teachers offering high-school graduates specializations in this area of education. It also sponsored three-month courses for school principals and day-
school and Talmud Torah teachers. A genuine effort was being made to raise the qualifications of Jewish teachers, most of whom had neither university nor other specialized training.

The lack of sufficient qualified professionals was one of the main reasons for the failure of Jewish education. Other factors were interference in educational policies and goals, resulting from differences among the various communal factions that were organized along Israel party lines, and, particularly, the indifference of most Jewish parents to Jewish tradition. Encouraging were the seminars and other activities of Horim—Federación de Padres de Escuelas Hebreas, a parents' organization attempting to bring together similar groups from schools all over the country and to foster among them greater commitment to and knowledge of Judaism.

Religion

Buenos Aires had some 50 synagogues and 14 rabbis. These congregations, organized on the basis of their members' countries of origin, made little effort to adapt to the Argentine way of life, and, as a result, failed to attract Jewish youth. An estimated 30,000 persons attended High Holy Days services. Most of the synagogues served only for religious functions, such as weddings and bar mitzvot. The exceptions were the Sephardi Temple Shalom; the German Lamroth Ha-kol, and Arcos; the Congregación Israelita de la República Argentina; the Reform Emanu-el, and the Conservative Comunidad Bet El, all functioning as community centers. They offered youth activities, educational programs for adults, and maintained their own schools and women's groups. Several of them had summer camps. Religious services were also held in many of the day schools, such as Colegio Wolfsohn, and in community centers.

Officially, religious life centered around the Orthodox chief rabbinate of AMIA. It registered marriages, granted divorces, performed conversions, controlled kashrut, and directed AMIA's Seminario Rabinico. Chief Rabbi David Kahane had previously been the chief rabbi of the Israeli air force. At the end of the year there was not a single rabbi left in the provinces.

Buenos Aires had two rabbinical seminaries. The Orthodox Seminario Rabinico, sponsored by AMIA had 30 students, who, upon completion of their studies, spent a year in Israel before receiving ordination. The Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Conservative), sponsored by the World Council of Synagogues and CENTRA, had 16 students in its rabbinical department and 180 in its secondary and university departments. In 1968 it also initiated a teacher's training course. Its rabbinical students, who at the same time attended universities in Buenos Aires, completed their rabbinical studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Rabbi Marshall Meyer was the rector of Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano; Mordecai Edery, vice-rector.

The central organization of the Reform movement was the Latin American
office of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, headed by Rabbi Leon Klenicki. The parallel Conservative agency was the Latin American office of the World Council of Synagogues, headed by Rabbi Meyer. The Emanu-el synagogue, the only Reform synagogue in Argentina, had 60 member families; its rabbi was Rifat Sonsino. Lamroth Ha-kol and the Leo Baek synagogue were Reform in practice, but only the latter was a member of the World Union. The oldest Conservative synagogue was the Congregación Israelita, under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Guillermo Schlesinger. The leading Conservative synagogue, Communidad Bet El, had 500 member families; Rabbis Jeffry Wohlberg and Marshall Meyer were its spiritual leaders. The World Council of Synagogues published a Sephardi mahzor for Rosh Ha-shanah, with translation by Rabbi Edery and notes by Rabbi Meyer.

In July local rabbis and Jewish scholars participated in a two-day symposium on “The Concept of Man in Judaism,” held by the Latin American office of the American Jewish Committee. In August local rabbis joined priests and ministers in an interfaith dialogue, sponsored by the Argentine Council of Christians and Jews. Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano initiated monthly seminars on religious problems for the rectors and professors of the principal religious seminaries of the three faiths.

Cultural Activities

YIVO celebrated 40 years of activity in Argentina. Its collection of 70,000 volumes was one of the most important Jewish libraries on the continent. The library, together with its archives of close to one million documents on Argentine-Jewish life, was housed in the AMIA building. In August Sociedad Hebraica, Argentina’s largest Jewish sports and cultural center, inaugurated its professional theatre building, which was heralded by the Jewish and non-Jewish communities as an important contribution to the cultural life of the country. Founded in 1926, the Hebraica had 25,000 members, as well as a library of 30,000 volumes. Its president was Jacobo Kovadloff. The American Jewish Committee conducted a special study of the Hebraica membership’s attitudinal motivations.

The Community Service, sponsored by the Latin American office of the American Jewish Committee, produced a series of tapes of Sephardi, Ashkenazi, synagogal, and Israeli music. Many Jewish cultural, communal, educational, and religious organizations in Buenos Aires and the provinces made increasing use of these tapes, as well as of collections of the service’s educational slides on Jewish traditional and historical subjects, publications, and travelogues. Two new travel exhibits were produced: “Jews of Sepharad” was shown first, with the aid of the Sephardi Communidad. A second exhibit, displaying 41 engravings by Jacob Steinhardt, was presented with the cooperation of Professor Gunther Böhm of the University of Chile.
Publications and Press

The important Jewish newspapers in Argentina were two Yiddish dailies, Di Presse and the Di Yidishe Tsaytung; the German-Jewish weekly Jüdische Wochenschau, and the Spanish weekly Mundo Israelita. Di Presse celebrated its 50th anniversary in January. Mundo Israelita was edited by Gregorio Fainguersch, who succeeded Leon Dujovne. Other publications were La Luz, a Spanish bi-weekly edited by Nissim Elnecavé; a Spanish literary journal Davar, published by the Hebraica; Maj’shavot (Mahashavot), a Spanish quarterly devoted to Jewish thought, published by the Latin American office of the World Council of Synagogues; Indice, a new quarterly specializing in social sciences and edited by the DAIA Center for Social Studies; Davka, a Yiddish magazine of Jewish and general philosophical thought, edited by Salomon Suskovich. Among other press publications were the organs of Jewish agencies and parties, such as Nueva Sion, published by the Shomer Hatzair; OSE, published by WIZO; Shalom, the information bulletin of the Jewish Board of Education; AMIA’s Boletin, and others. A new monthly, Raices, describing itself as “a Jewish magazine for the modern man” appeared in October. It was published by the Zionist Organization of Argentina and edited by Simja Sneh. The first issue, printed in 20,000 copies, had the format of popular news magazines and was sold on newsstands.

Comentario, the Spanish bi-monthly of the Instituto Judío Argentino de Cultura e Información was acknowledged by a growing number of universities and intellectuals on the continent as an important Jewish contribution to Argentina’s cultural advancement. A special reprint of “The Cease-Fire in the Middle East in Light of International Law” by Julius Stone, in the publication’s January-February issue, was widely distributed throughout Latin America, with the cooperation of the Israel Embassy. The second volume of Comunidades Judias de Latinoamerica (“Jewish Communities in Latin America”), a bi-annual publication of the Latin American office of American Jewish Committee, appeared in April. It contained information and articles on Jewish life in all Latin American countries.

Editorial Israel and Editorial Candelabro were the two principal Jewish publishing houses in Buenos Aires. However non-Jewish houses also published books on Jewish subjects during the year. In July Editorial Galerna published La Identidad Reprimida by Leon Perez. Acervo Cultural continued its project of publishing a Spanish translation of the Talmud in 26 volumes, edited by Abraham J. Weiss. Editorial Yehuda published a five-volume Breve Historia del Pueblo de Israel (“Brief History of the People of Israel”) by Moises Sendery. Eudeba brought out Historia de los Sefaraditas (“History of the Sephardim”) by Felipe de Quiros. Spanish translation of Leon Poliakov’s Historia del Anti-semitismo (“History of Antisemitism”) and Wiesel’s Los Judios del Silencio (“Jews of Silence”) were published by Siglo Veinte and Editorial Paidos, respectively.
Various Jewish institutions also made important contributions to the increasing number of Jewish books in Spanish. The South American executive of the World Jewish Congress published three titles in the Biblioteca Popular Judia pamphlet series: Simon Dubnow, Josué ("Joshua") and Historia de la Partición de Palestina ("History of the Partition of Palestine"). The AMIA youth department published three books in its Judaismo Contemporaneo ("Contemporary Judaism") series: a collection of essays El Problema Judío ("The Jewish Problem"), an anthology of documents on Ghettos: Martirio y Rebellion ("Ghettos: Martyrdom and Rebellion"), and a volume entitled, Antología Israel: La Liberación de un Pueblo ("Anthology of Israel: The Liberation of a People"). Three new pamphlets in the American Jewish Committee Community Service's series on Jewish identity were: Immigration y Sociedad pluralista ("Immigration and Pluralistic Society"), El concepto de identidad judía en las ciencias sociales ("The Concept of Jewish Identity in Social Sciences"), and, Las comunidades judías e Israel ("The Jewish Communities and Israel"). The Instituto Judío Argentino publication Israel visto por ojos Argentinos en su 20 Aniversario ("Israel Seen Through Argentine Eyes on Its 20th Anniversary") was a volume of essays by well-known Argentine Jews and non-Jews who had visited Israel.

In June the Centro de Estudios Bíblicos awarded Shalom Rosenberg the Gutentag prize for works relating to the Bible. The Instituto Judío Argentino awarded its bi-annual Alberto Gerchunoff prize for literature to Argentine author Alfredo de la Guardia for his book Ricardo Rojas. The Jewish museum of the Congregación Israelita arranged an exhibit of the Jewish press in November, with over 7,000 samples of Spanish-language Jewish newspapers and magazines from all over the world.

Zionism and Relations with Israel

The friendly relations between Argentina and Israel continued to be strengthened by many exchange visits of dignitaries and official missions. In January a group of Argentine journalists visited important institutions in Israel. For the first time, too, Argentina officially participated in the Tel Aviv international fair in March. Earlier, in 1964 and 1966, only individual Argentine industrialists showed their products at the fair. The Argentina House in Jerusalem continued to promote an understanding of Argentine culture and values among Israelis. (Its board of directors included members of all faiths). It inaugurated courses in Argentine folklore, literature, and the Spanish language. Its Spanish library was open to the public.

In February, Argentina appointed Eduardo Pizarro Jones ambassador to Israel.

In order to increase cooperation in the fields of science and technology, a delegation from the Weizmann Institute visited Argentina in May. The delegation was headed by the Professors Chaim Pekeris, Isaac Berenblom, and Miron Sheshkin, all of whom were invited to lecture at the University of
Buenos Aires. Among many other well-known Israeli visitors were: Dr. Natan Rotenstreich, rector of the Hebrew University who, in August, was the invited guest of the Universities of Buenos Aires and Córdoba; Dr. George Wise, president of the University of Tel Aviv; Moses Baram, member of the Keneset; Dr. Rafael Werblowsky, dean of the faculty of humanities of the Hebrew University; Yosef Almogui, member of Keneset; Finance Minister Phineas Sappir, and Israel Goldstein, president of the Keren Hayesod.

In June Israeli Undersecretary of Commerce David Golan headed an economic mission to Argentina as part of the continued efforts by the Argentine-Israeli chamber of commerce to change Israel's unfavorable trade balance. While Israel imported $7.5 million of meat, Argentina bought less than $0.5 million of chemicals. In October Israel participated in the Buenos Aires international aircraft exhibition.

The most important attempt to open the Argentine market for Israeli goods and create goodwill between the two countries, ended in tragedy in October. The Israeli government received permission to ship to Argentina duty-free $0.5 million of industrial and commercial products for an Israeli exposition and fair that was to be held in Buenos Aires in October. This was the biggest fair Israel had ever prepared abroad, and involved hundreds of its factories and industries. Five days before the opening, two tremendous explosions ripped through the fair building and destroyed all the merchandise. Testimony indicated beyond doubt that the explosions were caused by two bombs placed by unknown terrorists. The government and police promised a full investigation, but no one was ever indicted for the crime. The community and a large segment of the general public reacted with great shock and horror. Plans were immediately begun for a fair in 1969.

In Buenos Aires, the Israel embassy-sponsored Instituto de Intercambio Cultural Argentino Israeli offered courses in Hebrew and related subjects to 650 youths and adults. It also arranged exhibits, conferences, and cultural events during the year.

At the World Zionist Congress in June, Dr. Jaime Finkelsztein, Zionist leader and director of the Sholem Aleichem schools in Argentina, was elected director of the Jewish Agency's department of education and culture in the diaspora.

**Antisemitism**

The most serious act of antisemitism was the bombing of the Israeli fair in September. Among other overt acts by local right-wing nationalist groups were placing a bomb in the Rosario Zionist offices, in September, and defacing with antisemitic slogans and swastikas the Jewish cemetery in Liniers, in June, and the facade of the Buenos Aires Bet El synagogue, in January.

Nazi and Arab literature was openly sold at Buenos Aires newsstands, including *Política Internacional*, a periodical which attacked Argentine...
Jewry for its solidarity with Israel; the monthlies Paralelo 35 and Rebelion, the latter edited by Adolf Eichmann's son Klaus; Liga Arabe, and Causa Arabe. In the minds of the extreme nationalists, antisemitism was generally linked with anti-Zionism and Israel.

A letter protesting the rise of antisemitic incidents, addressed by DAIA to the government in May, remained unheeded. So did other similar communications. After the bombing of the Israel fair, DAIA again strongly protested to the authorities. At the same time, it sent a statement expressing indignation and protest to all Jewish communities in Argentina, with the request that it be read to their members.

The March issue of the leading Argentine daily La Prensa carried an editorial condemning antisemitism in Communist countries. At the Latin American Conference of Intellectuals, held in July to mark the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, the celebrated Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges and José Luis Romero, former rector of the University of Buenos Aires, repudiated discrimination against the Jews in the Soviet Union.

Personalia

Numo Wertheim, philanthropist, the largest Jewish landowner in Argentina and president of the Banco Mercantil, vice-president of the Casa Argentina en Israel, officer of the Instituto Judío Argentino de Cultura e Información in Buenos Aires, died in August, at the age of 72.

The well-known poet, Carlos M. Grunberg, author of Junto a un Rio de Babel ("Next to the River of Babel"), Mestre de Juderia ("Master of Jewry") and many other works, died in August.

David Klimovsky, a religious Zionist leader, vice-president of the AMIA and a director of the Mizrachi, died in Buenos Aires in October, at the age of 42.

Hardy Swarsensky, past president of the Campaña Unida (UJA), editor of the German-language weekly Jüdische Wochenschau, and Argentina representative of CJMCAG, died in Buenos Aires in December, at the age of 65.
IN HIS first “message-of-the-year” to parliament, on March 1, 1968, President Arturo da Costa e Silva said:

The powers of the Republic are functioning in perfect harmony and independence. No act of government was without clear and secure basis in the constitution or in ordinary laws. There was no outrage against individual liberty and the press suffered no restrictions in the free exercise of its democratic mission. . . .

The Brazilian revolution is incomprehensible for the impatient ones, because it was, and is, a movement in depth reaching the foundations of the country before touching its intellectual, political, economic, and administrative structures—a revolution not of the surface but of ideas, methods, habits, and moral customs. The results of a task of this scope cannot be given quickly, nor all at once. It requires time, suffering, sacrifice, and patience.

On December 13 Marshall Costa e Silva issued the 5th Institutional Act, following a clash between the executive and parliament. It recessed parliament for an indefinite period, restricted individual rights and property guarantees, and suspended habeas corpus in political crimes and crimes against national security, the economic order, and the economy as it affected the people. After the act went into effect, the president said, “How many times must we go on repeating and providing that the revolution cannot be reversed? the revolution proceeds in the right way that will lead the country to a quick and secure development. Whenever necessary, as now, we will make a new revolution within the revolution.”

In his end-of-the-year message, on December 31, the president concluded: “We safeguard our program of government and democracy. We temporarily sacrificed the latter for the good of what is fundamental and must be permanent in Brazil: public peace, tranquility of the family, guarantee of essential liberties, the development of the country, the material and moral progress of the Brazilian family.” The political rights of 11 deputies and political leaders, one of them Carlos Lacerda, former governor of Guanabara (AJYB 1967 [Vol. 68], p. 285), were immediately suspended for 10 years. In the opinion of governing circles, the 5th Institutional Act accelerated the use of measures already planned by Minister of Finance Antonio Delfim Netto, which formerly had to await the slow and complicated negotiations by managers and parliamentarians.

The National Security Council, a department of the central federal government with the rank of ministry, was established in January in accordance with a decree issued by the late President Humberto de Alencar Castelo Branco on the day his term ended (AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 405), and met
several times, always at critical moments. Its secretary general, General Jayme Portella, was given cabinet rank.

**Students**

Beginning in March, there were many student demonstrations which sometimes became violent and cost lives. At times, the army intervened when the police could not cope with the situation. At Ibiuna, near São Paulo, some 720 students who took part in October in an illegal congress of UNE (União Nacional de Estudantes), which already had been outlawed under former President Castelo Branco, were held by the police. The majority of them were released after a day or two.

The reason for the students' unrest was partly political, as everywhere in the world, but partly also in protest against the obsolete structure of the universities which could no longer cope with the student explosion, and had to turn away 120,000 young people who wanted to enter a university. Minister of Education Tarso Dutra appointed a commission to formulate an official policy in relation to the students, with General Meira Mattos as its president. The students were often supported by younger clergymen.

**Church**

The climate of unrest and change, reflecting the general international tensions in the church and the political and social changes in South America, also affected Brazil. The leaders of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (NCBB), representing the country's 243 bishops, was virtually in permanent session in an effort to determine its position on church problems—it accepted Pope Paul's "Humanae Vitae" encyclical on birth control, which was also hailed by the Brazilian president—and to cope with preparations and elections for CELAM (Conferencia Eclesiastica Latino-Americana) meeting in Medellin-Columbia at end of August, and attended by the Pope. The Brazilian delegation to CELAM was composed mainly of middle-of-the-road churchmen, such as Agnello Cardinal Rossi, Archbishop of São Paulo, and the progressive Archbishop Helder Camara of Olindo and Recife. Bishop Avilar Brandão presided over the conference.

There are two basically opposing movements in the Brazilian church. The conservative, anti-progressive, founded in 1960 by Professor Plinio Correia de Oliveira and lead by Bishop Proença Sigaud, called for the "defense of tradition, family, and prosperity." The second, which is now called "Truth, Justice, and Peace," was led by Archbishop Helder Camara.

**Foreign Policy**

In the course of 1968 responsible government circles explained Brazil's foreign policy on several occasions. In the above-mentioned March message to the nation, President Costa e Silva said: "Our voice is now listened to
with more respect at international conferences where we uncompromisingly defend our interests.” This obviously in preparation of stronger economic ties with East European countries and the arrival in Brazil of trade missions from Soviet Russia, Poland, and Yugoslavia.

The Brazilian representative at the UN Security Council, Geraldo de Carvalho Silos, voted for condemnation of Israel for its attacks on and incursions into Jordan in March, and for its reprisal raid on Beirut airport in December. When Brazil left the Security Council, of which it had been a member for two years (1967–68), Magalhães Pinto confirmed Brazil’s continued support of the November 22, 1967 Security Council resolution on the Middle East.

Economy

At the end of 1968 official estimates put Brazil’s population at 92.2 million, an increase of 29 per cent between 1960 and 1968, or an average of 3.63 per cent annually.

Minister of Planning Hélio Beltrão headed a three-year strategic development plan which former President Castelo Branco described in broad terms as a fight against inflation and the recovery of economic development. According to a statement by Finance Minister Antônio Delfim Netto, Brazil’s GNP reached 6 per cent in 1968. The inflation rate was kept slightly lower than the preceding year—22 per cent, or 4 per cent less than in 1967. The rise in prices was also curbed—24 per cent, or 0.5 per cent less than in 1967. Dollar reserves increased by 120 million; public foreign debts of $3.6 billion were to be repaid by the year 2008. Money in circulation, according to the latest available figure in November, was 4.87 million cruzeiros novos. The budget deficit was 1,226.7 million cruzeiros novos, despite the institution of a more efficient tax collection system and the relentless war on tax evasion. The dollar rate rose from 3.20 new cruzeiros in January, to 3.63 in August. From then on, a policy of flexibility for the dollar price was adopted to discourage speculation. It rose to 3.67 new cruzeiros in September, to 3.74 in November, to 3.80 in December.

An index of the economy’s stability was the simultaneous construction at year’s end of 24 hydroelectric plants, which were to produce a total of 11 million kilowatts electricity in 1970. Consumption of electrical energy increased by 13.1 per cent; the 1967 rise was 5.5 per cent. The auto industry, generally a gauge of industrial progress, produced 279,564 cars, 24 per cent more than in 1967. In March the minimum wage was increased from 105 to 129.60 new cruzeiros.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Until the 1970 general census will determine the exact number of Jews in Brazil, the earlier estimate of less than 150,000 stands for 1968 (AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 409). United HIAS Service reported in October that it arranged
and financed during the year the immigration of 96 Jews: nine from Egypt, 76 from Lebanon, four from Morocco, three from Poland, and four from Russia. Close relations with Brazilian immigration authorities were maintained.

Communal Activities

The Confederação Israelita do Brasil (CIB: AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 409), the coordinating agency of and spokesman for Brazilian Jews, was reorganized at its seventh national convention in December 1967. Its offices were moved to São Paulo, and the newly-elected executive board was composed of São Paulo community leaders: Moysés Kauffmann was reelected president; Federation leaders Benno Milnitzky and Marcos Firer were elected vice-president and secretary-general, respectively. CIB established a national council in which Amazonas, Brasília, and Pará had one representative each; Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, Bahia, and Paraná had two; Rio Grande do Sul, four; Guanabara and São Paulo six. It sent 35 delegates to the fifth Conference of Latin-American Jewish Communities in Montevideo in November. The Confederação received a favorable reply to its request of Foreign Minister Magalhães Pinto that immigration visas be granted to Jewish refugees from Arab countries and Poland. It also communicated with the German embassy regarding the extension of the statute of limitation for war criminals.

The Federação Israelita do Estado de São Paulo, the largest regional organization of Brazil's Jews (AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 409), began an ambitious program in 1968, including a demographic and social study of the Jewish community, with the active participation of the American Jewish Committee. Thus far, 9,087 of the 14,775 registered families in São Paulo replied to very detailed questionnaires. The findings were expected to permit, real community planning for the first time. A General Council for Social Service was in the process of formation.

At an extraordinary general assembly in December, the Rio de Janeiro Jewish Federation elected Samuel Malamud president of the executive, and Salomon Serebrenik president of the governing council.

CENTRA (Asociación de Comunidades y Organizaciones Israelites en Latinoaméricano; AJYB 1965 [Vol. 66], p. 344) held its seventh convention in Porto Alegre in October-November, with delegates from Argentina (Marcos Eddery of Buenos Aires), Brazil (Rabbis Fritz Pinkuss of São Paulo, Henrique Lemle of Rio), Chile (Egon Loewenstein of Santiago) and Uruguay (Rabbi Fritz Winter).

The convention of the B'nai B'rith regional council, meeting in Recife in March, elected Luiz Eigier president and Justinus Einstoss executive director. B'nai B'rith had 23 lodges in 11 cities.

The general improvement of economic conditions in Brazil was reflected in big planning by Jewish organizations. Thus, in March, the Rio Monte
Sinai Club acquired land to enlarge its facilities; the I.L. Peretz high school and the Bialik experimental school in São Paulo inaugurated new buildings, in September and October, respectively; the Centro Israelita in Recife-Pernambuco inaugurated a new building on its 50th anniversary. Centro Israelita Brasileiro in Rio laid the cornerstone for a new community center and synagogue in Copacabana in August.

Commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Israel’s independence and the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto revolt were widely discussed in the Jewish and general press. Jewish and non-Jewish representatives spoke of the glory and tragedy of these events in the national, state, and city legislatures. The presence of Israel minister without Portfolio Menahem Begin attracted big crowds in Rio and São Paulo. The 30th anniversary commemoration of the “Kristallnacht,” which marked the beginning of the mass imprisonment of Jews in Nazi Germany, was commemorated and widely marked in the general press.

Community Relations

The Conselho de Fraternidade Cristão-Judaico de São Paulo (Council for Christian-Jewish Brotherhood (AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 411) held a Passover-Easter service of the three great religions in April.

The 12th national Macabiada in which 500 Brazilian Jewish athletes participated, was a big public event in São Paulo in September. The contest, viewed by 13,000 spectators, was opened by state Governor Roberto de Abreu Sodré. São Paulo Mayor Faria Lima, Archbishop Cardinal D. Agnello Rossi; many other high-ranking military and public officials attended. 3,000 Jewish school children marched and danced in an impressive pageant.

In October Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, received the Order of the Southern Cross from Foreign Minister Magalhães Pinto as a tribute to the Jewish people for its contribution to world civilization and Brazil’s development.

In December Foreign Minister Magalhães Pinto was presented with a citation by United HIAS Service president Carlos L. Israels in appreciation of Brazil’s generous immigration policy. Two days later he presented a similar document to CIB president Moyses Kauffmann in São Paulo in recognition of Brazilian Jewry’s willingness to accept immigrants.

In the spirit of ecumenism a commission of Catholic priests and Protestant ministers began work in February on a revised edition of the New Testament. Rabbi Lemle, Reverend Domicio Pereira Matos, and Father Guy Ruffier coordinated six ecumenical conferences in Rio in July.

At the first congress of religious education, held in Rio in November, 700 Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish teachers elaborated a five-point program aimed largely at the improvement of the training and status of teachers of religion. The final session was addressed by Cardinal D. Jaime de Barros.
Câmara, Rev. Cerqueira Leite, Rabbi Ismael Cohen; state governor Negrão de Lima made the closing speech.

In some cities, including Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Recife, and Campinas, Jewish organizations invited members of the local press to inter-group receptions.

**Human Rights**

In October President Costa e Silva inaugurated the Council for the Defense of the Rights of the Human Being in Brazil, which was to meet bi-monthly under the chairmanship of the minister of justice. The Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos (IBRADIU—Brazilian Institute of Human Rights; AJYB 1967 [Vol. 68], p. 289), had made strong efforts for the implementation of the 1964 law establishing the council.

The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the closing of the International Year of Human Rights were celebrated in solemn sessions of the Rio (Guanabara) and São Paulo state parliaments and at the São Francisco Law School in São Paulo. In Belo Horizonte, the Jewish community organized a celebration, with Foreign Minister Chancellor Magalhães Pinto as guest of honor and main speaker.

**Education**

There were no new over-all statistics on education for 1968. However, developments in some of the individual schools may be of interest: The Renascença school in São Paulo, with classes from kindergarten through high school, had a total enrollment of 2,775; attendance in its high school rose from 212 in 1960, to 555 in 1968. In Recife (Pernambuco), a community of about 1,600 Jews, 350 pupils constituting 97 per cent of all Jewish school-age children attended the Colégio Israelita Moysés Chwarts high school. In Belém-Pará 60 pupils, or 20 per cent of all school-age children, attended the Sara Kislanow school, and in Porto Alegre 1,200, or about 30–40 per cent of all children, were enrolled in the Israel-Brasil high school. In Rio, the Ginásio Bar Ilan opened a new kindergarten in September. The Talmud Tora Ginásio in São Paulo opened a laboratory for applied science in April.

**Youth**

Six youth movements or organizations were active in Brazil: Ihud Ha-bonim, with branches in Rio, São Paulo, Curitiba, and Porto Alegre; Ha-shomer Ha-tza'ir, with branches in Rio, São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, and Porto Alegre; Dror-Kibbutz Ha-me'uhad, with branches in Rio and São Paulo; Bene Akiva, with branches in Rio and São Paulo; and the CENTRA-connected Jewish Brazilian Youth Front Hazit No'ar Brasilait, with branches in Rio, São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, and Campinas. The largest
single youth organization, the youth department of Congregação Israelita Paulista (CIP) in São Paulo, had 1,400 members. Other organizations were the Grupo Universitário Hebraico (AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 412), and youth chapters of B'nai B'rith in Recife (AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 412), as well as São Paulo, founded in May, and in Rio, founded in December. All organizations sent promising young people to Israel either to attend the special school for youth leaders in Jerusalem or to participate in one-year work programs.

There was no marked Jewish participation in the numerous students' demonstrations.

Cultural Activities

An exhibit of photographs of third to twentieth century European synagogues (AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 412) was shown in Belo Horizonte and in São Paulo in January by the Instituto Brasileiro-Judaico de Cultura e Divulgação. The Academia de Estudos Judaicos, as the two new series of leadership training courses on community relations were called, was held from April to October. It was a joint venture of the São Paulo Instituto and B'nai B'rith, and coordinated by Walter Rehfeld. The Rio Associação Sholem Aleichem gave a lecture series in August on Jewish contributions to world culture, one of them by Rabbi Henrique Lemle, dealt with "Jewish Elements in Monotheistic Religions of the Occident." The exhibit of Jewish books, arranged by the Instituto in Rio in July covered the "Editorial Panorama of the last 50 years." The publication of a special issue of Comentário on Israeli culture was marked by an Israeli embassy reception in Rio in March.

Zygmunt Turkow's Yiddish theater group, which offered, among others, the Israeli play Go Home My Son in Yiddish translation, drew big crowds in Rio and São Paulo in May. The Brazilian theater of Jewish Art (TAIB) in São Paulo presented "The Miracle of Anne Sullivan," which ran for one year and was seen by more than 150,000 people. Berta Zemmel in the title role received the theatre critics' award for her performance. The play "Requiem for Friday Night," based on Kiddush by the Argentine writer Germain Rozenmacher, had its premier in São Paulo in August; it closed several months later. The general press discussed the problems aired in the play, namely the tensions between the first- and second-generation immigrants and intermarriage. The Hagashash, a troupe of Israeli musical humorists, gave performances in São Paulo and Rio in November.

Several Brazilian Jewish artists won recognition at home and abroad. In June Rubens Guerchman and Abraham Palatnik represented Brazil in an exhibit of paintings held in Colombia, and Ana Bela Geyer showed her engravings in Paris and in the United States. Anatol Wladislaw exhibited his work in Europe in July. Berco Udler's album "Boys—Lovers—Death" was hailed by the press in November as "one of the most important works of
art biography." In December Fayga Ostrower received the gold medal as best engraver of the year from the Museum of Image and Sound in Rio for her painted woodcuts. Her pupil, Brazilian-born Israeli artist Leon Goldenberg, exhibited his paintings in Rio. Art critic Lisetta Levi arranged Israel Embassy sponsored shows for 16 Israeli artists in Rio in June, and later in September in São Paulo, under the auspices of WIZO. The works of Abraham Yaskil and his sons Zeev and Amos, an Israeli family of artists, were shown in São Paulo and Rio in August and September, respectively. An exposition "Engravers of Poland and Photographs of Israel," organized by the embassies of Poland and Israel, was opened at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio in August. "Twenty Years of Israel," an exhibit of photographs was shown in São Paulo in October.

During the summer months Israeli violinist Zvi Zeitlin, Russian violinist Leonid Kogan, and American violinist Isaac Stern gave recitals in Rio and São Paulo. The choir of the Brazilian-Jewish Institute for Culture and Education, under the direction of Eleazar de Carvalho, gave the first Brazilian performance of Arnold Schoenberg's "The Survivors of Warsaw" in June.

Interest in Jewish subjects brought forth in 1968 many books by Brazilian authors and translations. The most widely discussed was Judas: Traidor ou Traido? ("Judas: Traitor or Betrayed?") by Danillo Nunes, a high judge, who discussed entirely new aspects of Judas. Editora Perspectiva published Do Estudo e da Oração ("Studies and Prayers"), the 11th volume in their Judaica series. B'nai B'rith brought out five booklets in a Livretos Hillel series; Edições Bloch published Entre a Foice e o Martelo ("Between Sickle and Hammer") by Ari Benami. Translations included: Ben Gurion by M. Michel Bar Zohar; Angústia dos Judeus ("Anguish of the Jews") by Edward H. Flannery; O Caçador de Nazistas ("The Murderers Among Us") by Simon Wiesenthal; Paradoxos ("Parodoxes") by Max Nordau; A Igreja e os Judeus ("The Church and the Jewish People") by Augustin Cardinal Bea; O Processo de Nuremberg ("The Nuremberg Trial") by Joe S. Heydecker and Johannes Leeb; Psicanálise do Antisemitismo ("Christians and Jews: A Psychoanalytic Study") by Rudolph M. Loewenstein; O Dogmo de Cristo ("The Dogma of Christ") by Erich Fromm, and A Muralha da China ("The Chinese Wall") by Franz Kafka.

Antisemitism

Relations between Jews and non-Jews remained amiable. While there were isolated incidents of antisemitic slogan-smearing on houses and synagogues, no organized movement was discovered. The activities of the Arab League seemed to be expanding, judging from attacks on Jews and "Zionist imperialism" in some publications which, however, stressed the good relations between Arab and Jewish citizens of Brazil. Attacks on Israel in interviews given by ambassadors of Arab countries were sometimes answered by Israeli diplomats. In a press conference and in lectures at the universities of Rio
and São Paulo, Godofredo Garcia Rendón a Peruvian lawyer and university professor, accused Israel of violating human rights by its aggression against the Arabs. Press reports of the conference appeared in March.

Two occurrences created quite a stir among Jews and non-Jews. In its March issue, the widely read monthly *Realidade* published the results of a public opinion poll on a question probing attitudes toward Jews and the extent of antisemitism in Brazil, which showed that prejudice existed. The report aroused ill-feeling among many Jews who felt that the questions were phrased in a manner that would elicit such a response. The editors received many letters, also from the São Paulo Confederation and the Jewish Federation, expressing regret at the publication of the poll.

The second event was the attempted murder by a young Arab of an elderly cantor, Moshe Getstein, in Curitiba in June. The victim survived, although three bullets remained lodged in his neck. A thorough investigation of the case gave no indication of a political plot.

**Relations with Israel**

The new Brazilian ambassador to Israel, José Oswaldo Meira Pena (AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 416), presented his credentials to President Shazar in January. Israel’s ambassador to Brazil Shmuel Divon was succeeded by Ambassador Izhak Harkavi, who presented his credentials to President Costa e Silva in November. The Israeli consul in São Paulo, Isachar Shamgar, was replaced by Consul General Shlomo Nahmias in August; a second consul, Nethanel Z. Liram, was appointed to deal specifically with economic questions.

Brazil maintained its unbiased position in the Middle East conflict. When acting as president of the UN Security Council, João Augusto Castro appealed both to Israel and the Arab countries to respect the decisions of the UN, and asked the USSR to stop selling arms to the Arabs. The Brazilian government donated 60,000 kilos of coffee to the Arab refugees.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Israel’s independence in May, the Rio Federation presented a silver medal to the widow of Oswaldo Aranha, president of the UN General Assembly in 1947 that had voted the establishment of a Jewish state.

Various agreements between Brazil and Israel, beginning with the basic treaty of Recife (AJYB 1964 [Vol. 65], p. 190, AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 416), brought a number of new developments in 1968: The Superintendency for the Development of Northeastern Brazil (SUDENE; AJYB 1968 [Vol. 69], p. 416), with the aid of an Israeli technical mission, built an irrigation center in the state of Piauí as a pilot plan involving 40,000 hectares of land. The two-year-old Brazilian-Israeli Consorcium Sondotécnica-Tahal started irrigation projects in Rio Grande do Norte and Ceará in July. Another agreement for irrigation in the state of Rio Grande do Sul was signed in
August. In November Israel granted Brazil a loan of $24 million for railway construction in the state of Paraná.

Israeli scientists, among them Reuven Aroni, Eliahu Foa, and Moshe Calderon, continued to work in Brazil on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, particularly for food conservation. In June the South American group of the Weizmann Institute sponsored symposia on nuclear physics and technological science in Rio and São Paulo. Here, leading Brazilian scientists exchanged views with their Israeli colleagues, Professors Amos de Shalit, Chaim Pekeris, and Amos Chorev. Professor David Lavie of the Weizmann Institute lectured on organic chemistry at the Butantan Institute in São Paulo in July. Among other Israeli guests of Brazilian universities were Nathan Rothenstreich, the rector of the Hebrew University, two of its professors, Raphael J. Z. Werblowsky and Marcos Wasserman, and George Wise, rector of Tel Aviv University.

Among prominent Brazilians who visited Israel as guests of the government were Nacimento Britto, editor of the leading newspaper Jornal do Brasil (February); Minister of Labor Jarbas Passarinho (June); Cardinal Agnelo Rossi, Archbishop of São Paulo and president of the Conference of Brazilian Bishops (December).

**Personalia**

Nuclear physicist Ernst W. Hamburger was elected member of the Brazilian Academy of Science in January. José Grossmann, professor of zootechny at the Rio Grande do Sul University agricultural school, received the “order of merit for public services” in April. Livio Levi received the Simonsen prize for industrial designs in May. Moysés Kauffmann, Jewish community leader, was publicly honored on his 60th birthday in August. Fritz Feigl, world authority on microchemistry, received the highly-coveted “Moinha Santista” prize in October. In December the writer Adolfo Aizen was awarded the Machado de Assis medal for his children’s books.

Two Jewish journalists, Aron Neumann of Rio, editor of Aonde Vamos, and Conrad Charmatz of São Paulo, editor of O Novo Momento, were honored at public banquets given on the occasion of the anniversaries of their publications, in June and October respectively.

Isaac Teperman, honorary president of São Paulo’s old age home, died in February, at the age of 70. Luba Klabin, sister of the late artist Lazar Segall and for many years prominent in women’s organizations, died in September, at the age of 80. A. Berthie Levi, community leader active in immigration work and B’nai B’rith, died in October, at the age of 69.

**ALFRED HIRSCHBERG**