

Latin America

Argentina

Domestic Affairs

ARGININE JOURNALIST Esteban Lorca succinctly summarized what surely was the foremost fact of Argentine life in 1975: "Let's face it, we are at war" (Buenos Aires *Herald*, November 1). On June 3 Interior Minister Alberto Rocamora reported 5,799 incidents of political violence since May 1973. By the end of 1975 the figure was over 8,000. Political murders jumped from 170 in 1974 to over 1,100 in 1975. Most political analysts felt that this number fell short of reality. Terrorist forces were estimated at 400,000 at the end of 1975, as compared with 200,000 in 1974. Labor Minister Ricardo Otero had said in January: "It seems that all these criminal acts are carried out with what I would call suspicious impunity."

In February the military were authorized to carry out a drastic nationwide campaign against subversive elements. Initial operations concentrated on raids in the province of Tucumán and spread during the year to many other areas paralyzed by bombings and the assassination of military, political, and labor figures. At the beginning of October, 50 persons were killed in a leftist terrorist attempt to storm the army barracks in the province of Formosa. It was clear that the Montoneros (leftwing Peronists) had joined the outlawed Marxist ERP (People's Revolutionary Army) to challenge the army. As on several previous occasions, it was obvious that the attackers had inside help. Several political analysts maintained that a growing number of young leftist officers were infiltrating the Argentine armed forces.

The attack in Formosa demonstrated the scale of guerrilla warfare, to which, however, the large majority of Argentines remained completely indifferent. The army announced 350 guerrilla casualties between January and May in the province of Tucumán alone. Here, in March, thousands of troops fought thousands of terrorists. Entire families were wiped out in gangster-like attacks. Reports, at the end of October, of the arrest of a former combatant of the Palestine guerrilla movement, Ismael Jacinto Haiek, who headed a Montoneros commando cell in La Plata, capital of the Buenos Aires province, revealed something of the character of the terrorist movement. Haiek, who had Argentine citizenship, ran a powerful radio interception

center, as well as a well-equipped laboratory with sophisticated telex, tape-recording, printing, and photo-processing facilities. He also was correspondent for the *Cuestiones Arabes* ("Arab Problems"), as well as for *La Voz de Palestina* ("The Voice of Palestine"), two antisemitic magazines, and produced *Patria Bárbara* ("What a Fatherland!"), a clandestine publication of the Montoneros guerrillas. Photographs found at the guerrilla hideout showed Haiek with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and George Habash, head of the more extreme Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, at their Beirut offices.

Throughout the year countless meetings took place between the defense ministry, the armed forces, and the cabinet to strengthen antiterrorist action. Finally, on November 20, army troops joined the federal police in Buenos Aires in a search for guerrilla activists. On the night of December 23 the largest single terrorist attack was launched against an arsenal unit in Monte Chingolo, some ten miles south of Buenos Aires. The first official statistics registered over 60 dead and dozens wounded, but some newspapers published far higher figures.

Hundreds of foreign executives of international companies were recalled by their home offices in 1975 because of the constant threat and reality of kidnapping, murder, and ransom. The most publicized kidnapping was that of Jorge and Juan Born, sons of a founding family of Bunge & Born Company, the largest private Argentine multinational concern, in September 1974. They were reportedly ransomed in June 1975 for \$60 million, brought into the country from abroad. A government investigation was to determine whether the concern violated tax and foreign-exchange laws in paying the ransom.

In October the armed forces were granted formal authority "to wipe out subversive elements in all parts of the country," and were placed under the over-all command of President Isabel Martínez de Perón. All provincial police and prison staffs were placed under the operational control of the Defense Council. On October 8 the Buenos Aires office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was seized, and hostages were held by Chilean refugees demanding a guarantee of safe transport to any democratic country willing to give them asylum. The seizure was also meant to "draw attention to the humiliating conditions of Latin American refugees in Argentina."

Church leaders, intellectuals, and journalists agreed that the malaise stemmed from a complete breakdown of principles and decline in moral values. In May four French representatives of the International Federation of Human Rights and the Pax Romana International Movement of Catholic Jurists said that the right to defense and freedom of expression were empty phrases in Argentina.

In September Mrs. Perón took a leave. Senator Italo Luder, just appointed acting president of the Senate—an office that had remained vacant since the resignation of Senator José Allende (AJYB, 1976 [Vol. 76], p. 274)—became interim president of the Republic. Raúl Lastiri, José López Rega's son-in-law and chairman of the House of Representatives, who was next in line to succeed to the presidency, was deprived of this office by the Senate's haste to fill the vacancy. Shortly thereafter,

behind-the-scenes pressures forced the House of Representatives to relieve Lastiri of the chairmanship. Mrs. Perón, who after her leave was hospitalized for an ailment, was absent from Government House for 58 days. The resultant power vacuum moved Peronists and opposition parties to demand her resignation.

At the end of October the National Congress approved a fraud investigation, implicating many Peronist ministers. The probe extended to President Perón herself, who had signed a check for what amounted to some \$600,000 drawn on charity funds for her personal use, which, she claimed, was done in error.

Throughout the year there had also been countless rumors of imminent coups. On December 18 a group of right-wing air force officers led a four-day attempt to overthrow the government. It was quashed without bloodshed by the armed forces. In December, too, a bloc of 28 dissident deputies left the government Justicialist Liberation Front, demanding Mrs. Perón's resignation. As a result, the central Peronist party lost its majority in the National Congress.

By year's end, dozens of high-ranking Peronists and national and provincial leaders were wanted by the courts and police on corruption charges, among them former Social Welfare Minister José López Rega and his successor, Carlos María Villone, for misuse of public funds. López Rega, leader of the hard-line rightist Peronists with strong fascist leanings and the most influential figure in the government after Juan Domingo Perón's death, was forced out of office in July. Before he fled for Spain, Mrs. Perón appointed him ambassador plenipotentiary. In an apparent response to pressure from the military, dissident Peronists, and other opposition groups, President Perón on December 29 stripped him of his office. A federal order was issued for the arrest of López Rega and Villone, who had also left the country. The Buenos Aires *Herald*, hailing López Rega's fall, stated: "The whole truth of Mr. López Rega, who arose from the obscurity of a police corporal to become one of the most powerful men in the country, is not yet known. Intelligence reports had linked him with the murder squads of the extreme right. His ouster signifies a defeat for those fatalists who had come to look upon Argentina as a country heading down the path of dissolution and decadence, governed by people whose background and behavior was reminiscent of Nazi Germany or Haiti under 'Papa Doc'."

Mrs. Perón's position had become quite untenable. Despite the good will of the vast majority of Argentine people, few believed that she would remain in power until the national elections in December 1976, a date three months in advance of that provided by the constitution. She had the active support of very few politicians. Jorge Daniel Paladino, who had been Juan Perón's personal representative, stated: "Peronism's great mistake was not to prepare itself for Perón's death." One of the sharpest criticisms of Mrs. Perón came from Governor Victorio Calabró of the province of Buenos Aires at the Association of Foreign Correspondents. It brought his expulsion from the Justicialist party on November 10. Two days later 40,000 people gathered at a rally in his support at La Plata.

The power vacuum, government mismanagement, and moral decline worsened throughout January and February 1976. Rumors of an imminent coup finally be-

came fact. The armed forces decided to intervene, and on March 24, after a bloodless coup, a military junta deposed the government of Mrs. Perón. General Jorge Rafael Videla assumed the presidency four days later. The national press reported at the end of March that there were some 5,000 political prisoners in Argentina: 1,500 interned by the Peronist regime and another 3,500 by the new government.

Economic Conditions

The year 1975 was the most catastrophic for Argentina's economy. There were four ministers of economy during the year, but none was able to halt the galloping inflation which, in the last months, increased by over one per cent a day. In February a large wage increase, 400 new pesos a month, was granted to all workers, bringing the monthly minimum wage to 2,000 new pesos. This agreement was to expire on May 31, and collective bargaining committees were set up to prepare for the new wage scale to go into effect on June 1. Agreements on wage increases at the end of June were vetoed by President Perón, who fixed raises at 50 per cent and promised a further increases of 15 per cent each on October 1 and January 1, 1976. On June 4 Economy Minister Celestino Rodrigo instituted a program of price increases and devaluation, which sharply decreased the value of wages.

A general strike, called on June 27, brought the country to a complete standstill and a mass workers' demonstration in front of Government House. The General Labor Confederation won out in its battle with the president, and wages were raised from 150 to 200 per cent. This was labor's reaction to the shock tactics of Economy Minister Rodrigo who had devalued the peso by more than 50 per cent. On June 28 *La Opinión* published a special economic section, entitled "Requiem for the Middle Class," which predicted that "June 4 will go down in the black book of the middle class as the beginning of the holocaust." On July 1 there was a run on the banks; most of them ran out of cash and had to close their doors. CGT called another general strike for July 7 and 8. An emergency salary increase of 1,500 new pesos, granted in November, raised the minimum monthly wage to 6,500 pesos.

Strikes paralyzed Argentine production throughout the year, and many were accompanied by severe violence and bloodshed. Steel production in the industrial belt of Villa Constitución came to a halt for 59 days, from March 20 to May 19. A strike of 2,300 workers at the Fiat Concord automobile plant curtailed production for over a month and a half. In April the entire automobile industry, which employed over 60,000 workers, came to a virtual standstill. All grocery stores, slaughter houses, milk delivery, public utilities, etc. were closed by strikes. On May 19, when over 100,000 farmers struck, the Rural Society stated: "We demand immediate solutions; for something is terribly wrong when a cow is worth less than a pair of shoes, a ton of wheat will not buy the farmer a new suit, and the sale of a sheep only produces three tickets to a movie." Cattlemen struck for 10 days in September and for 18 days in October-November.

As a result of the ridiculously low prices in foreign currency, a multi-million dollar contraband traffic developed from Argentina's northern provinces to Paraguay and Brazil. From the provinces of Misiones and Chaco alone, between mid-1973 and mid-1975, smugglers operating with trucks and special invoices moved 48,000 tons of linseed, 25,000 tons of rice, 49,000 heads of cattle, 42,000 tons of sunflower seeds, and 32,000 tons of cotton (Buenos Aires *Herald*, December 21, 1975, p. 2). Buenos Aires was flooded at year's end with hundreds of tourists from neighboring countries who were buying out the stocks of clothing and other easily transportable consumer and luxury goods in local retail stores. Said one of the rebel air force officers in the abortive December coup: "The country has been turned into a bazaar for foreigners."

To keep up with the inflation, the mint was working 24 hours a day. The output was 2.83 million new pesos per hour. *La Prensa* reported in November that the October issue of printed money equaled all the money in circulation when the Peronist regime took over in May 1973.

The best index of the economic disaster was the price of the black-market dollar, which jumped from 8.30 new pesos in January 1975 to 390 pesos at the beginning of 1976. Banks charged an annual interest of 40 per cent for loans, and finance companies 58 per cent. There were 13 devaluations, and the official wholesale-price index went up well over 300 per cent during the year. The total foreign debt incurred by the government and the private sector was \$8,800 million. The estimated trade deficit was \$520 million for the year. Argentina spent \$320 million on oil import, while, according to the Buenos Aires *Herald*, "we should be exporting petroleum." Despite predictions of a bumper wheat crop, two million tons less in grain and meat were exported between January and October than in the same period in 1974. Between July 1974 and December 1975 the number of government workers increased by 100,000. *La Prensa* stated that, apart from 104 Saturdays and Sundays, seven national holidays, and ten other official nonworking days, Argentina had special days of idleness for milkmen, butchers, bakers, journalists, newspaper vendors, printers, etc. The country's banking hours were the shortest in the world. According to the economy ministry, 60 per cent of the citizens with taxable incomes either did not pay, or underpaid, their income taxes.

The press stated that Argentine communities in Madrid, Mexico, Caracas, and other Spanish-speaking capitals had increased by 40 per cent in the last two years. There was a waiting list of from two to three years for American, Australian, and South African immigration visas. The best bargain in Argentina remained the price of international air tickets, which cost one-tenth of their real value. Economy Minister Rodrigo said at mid-year that local travellers to foreign countries had drained \$500 million from the Central Bank. The same disastrous economic trends continued under Rodrigo's three successors who held the post before the March 1976 coup.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography

The Jewish population estimate of 475,000, which had been used for years, has increasingly come to be regarded as an exaggeration. The Spanish-Jewish press repeatedly published the Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry figure of 300,000, and some Jewish leaders even regarded this estimate as overgenerous. Thus far, however, Argentine Jewry had neither the scientific know-how nor the facilities to conduct a survey which would yield a definitive figure. The vast majority of Jews continued to live in Greater Buenos Aires, with leading centers of Jewish population in the provinces, in order of importance: Rosario, Córdoba, Santa Fé, La Plata, Tucumán, Mendoza, and Bahía Blanca.

Communal Organizations

Political, economic, and social instability, together with rising violence, disrupted the activities of Jewish communal organizations. Teachers, administrators, and other communal workers participated in the strike movements. After the "Rodrigazo" the situation was so desperate that it jeopardized the future of the educational network.

The Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA), the central Ashkenazi organization, continued to be the largest group. Of its 51,500 members, however, 8,500 either did not pay their dues or were no longer registered. In the first ten months of the year, 756 new members were enrolled. Dues payments were not uniform, ranging from one of about \$8 a month to some 300 of 80 cents, with most amounting to some 30 cents. After prolonged debate during August and September, all dues were set at 50 new pesos, or 30 cents, per month. As AMIA's vice-president remarked, "It is not right that our community must subsist exclusively by moneys from funerals and burials while 43,000 members who are alive do little or nothing to maintain AMIA" (*Mundo Israelita*, August 16, p. 5.).

Dr. Mario Gorenstein, who was elected president of AMIA in April, manifested particular interest in the thousands of members who maintained no contact with the institution. He also wanted to achieve future Ashkenazi-Sephardi collaboration: "Our main objective will be to achieve the integration of the immense majority of Jews who, until today, assume the role of spectators without the minimal elements of Jewish identification."

In the first six months of the year 937 deaths were registered, 30 per cent of them outside AMIA membership. AMIA, whose burial society was founded in 1894, owned four cemeteries: Liniers, Tablada, Berazategui, and Ciudadela. The first, Liniers, was purchased in 1910. La Tablada, bought in 1936 and extended by the acquisition of additional land in 1967 and 1975, registered some 240 burials per month. The majority of AMIA's funds continued to come from funerals.

AMIA held elections in April, as usual along Israeli political-party lines, to which there was growing opposition. This was reflected in lack of participation, as reported in *Mundo Israelita*: "Of the 46,000 members, only 34,000 were in voting conditions, and of those only 7,811 voted." The vote for the leading parties was as follows: Mapai Ahdut Ha'avodah, 3,558; Agudath Israel, 646; Mizrachi, 637. This meant that 41 of the 90 seats of the AMIA parliament went to Ahdut Ha'avodah, and 8 to Agudath.

A breakdown of disbursements in 1974, which totaled 71 million new pesos, showed the following large items: 740,000 new pesos for religious activities, 26,500,000 for education, 8,900,000 for welfare, 3,000,000 for youth programs, and 1,600,000 new pesos for cultural activities. The budget adopted at the beginning of 1975 had to be continually adjusted to meet the rising inflation: costs went up 300 per cent during the year, while income barely covered half of the rise.

DAIA (Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas) was the representative body of leading Jewish organizations in Greater Buenos Aires and the provinces. Its main function was that of official communal spokesman in relations with the federal and local governments, specifically with regard to antisemitism, which had become more serious than ever before. DAIA published *Boletín Informativo*, a periodical devoted to antidefamation work. The Organización Sionista Argentina (OSA), the third of the chief communal institutions, stepped up its effort to explain the Zionist position to the Argentine public, especially after the adverse events in the United Nations.

Among the more than 40 Jewish organizations in Buenos Aires were: Sociedad Hebraica Argentina (SHA), a sports and cultural center with its own golf and country club and theater, and some 21,000 members, of whom about half were life members (membership begins at the age of six); Club Nautico Hacoah, a rowing and sports club in Tigre, with 10,000 members (new members were only accepted as vacancies occurred and never exceeded 500 annually); Club Atlético Sefaradi Argentino (CASA), the 14-year-old Sephardi athletic and sports club with about 10,000 members, which in December revealed extraordinarily ambitious construction plans; Organización Hebrea Macabi, a sports club with some 9,000 members; Organización Sionista Femenina Argentina (OSFA), the local WIZO; the 75-year-old Hospital Israelita Ezra—a 240-bed facility with 230 doctors, a nonmedical staff of 550 persons, 23 outpatient clinics attending to some 1,000 patients daily—which encountered serious financial difficulties that were somewhat eased by year's end when the national government began to use it for its health and welfare services; the Instituto Judío Argentino de Cultura e Información; the South American office of the American Jewish Committee, under the direction of Jacobo Kovadloff; the Latin American section of the World Jewish Congress, with Marc Turkow as director and Gregorio Faigon as president; the Latin American office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, whose new executive director was Argentine-born, American-educated Alfredo Berlfein; the 60-year-old Hogar Israelita Argentino para Ancianos y Niños, a home for 700 aged people and orphans, one

of the institutions hardest hit by the economic crisis; Consejo Argentino de Mujeres Israelita (CAMI; Argentine Council of Jewish Women), which ran a golden-age club with a vast cultural program and an excellent occupational-therapy service.

The Ente Coordinador Sefaradi Argentino (ECSA), founded in November 1974, sought to achieve Sephardi community integration throughout the country. Jews of Turkish or Balkan origin were organized in the Asociación Comunidad Israelita Sefaradi de Buenos Aires (ACIS); Moroccan Jews maintained the Congregación Israelita Latina; those of Syrian-Lebanese origin had the Asociación Israelita Sefaradi Argentina (AISA). The Delegación de Entidades Sefaraditas Argentinas (DESA) coordinated Sephardi action in support of Israel.

Communal Activities

The condition of Argentine Jewry, as Rosh Ha-shanah 1975 approached, was reflected in an editorial in *Mundo Israelita*, the official organ of the Labor Zionist party and a leading Spanish-Jewish newspaper:

We must, once and for all, state unequivocally that the main problem is the frightening disappearance of Jewish content and feeling, which is the common denominator of the vast majority of our Jews. This basic lack of Jewish identification and participation is responsible to a far greater extent for our crisis than is the devouring inflationary-recessionary economic crisis. It is high time that we freely confess that Argentine Jews certainly could cover their own expenses if they were properly organized and committed. Besides the lack of Jewish values and voluntary spirit, we must also confront the vicious image of an antiquated and obsolete community structure.

A united emergency fund-raising campaign was launched in August to attempt to remedy the severe financial crisis in the community. The campaign's executive, headed by Noah Kacowicz and composed of the presidents of leading Jewish institutions, called for a thorough reappraisal of the educational system and its schools. The campaign, one of the few initiatives of promise during the last few years, attempted to bring together Sephardim, Ashkenazim, Orthodox, liberals, as well as unaffiliated Jews. JDC representative Alfredo Berlfein was the organizer of this initiative which, at year's end, was still unsuccessful.

Berlfein also was responsible for the success of a five-day leadership seminar at the Macabi camp held at the end of September under the auspices of CASA, Hebraica, Macabi, Hacoah, Dor Hemshech, and JDC. Guest of honor was Israel Paled, president of the Macabi world organization.

The 32nd anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising and the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp were observed on April 7 at the SHA theatre under the sponsorship of She'erit ha-Peletah (organization of concentration camp survivors), AMIA, DAIA, OSA, and the Argentine Jewish Youth Confederation. In August the Argentine Committee for the Defense of Soviet Jewry held a memorial meeting for the Jewish writers who had been executed in the USSR

on August 12, 1952. The speaker was the Argentine politician Alfredo Concepción. A large celebration in Moisesville at the end of November marked the centennial of the immigration laws that spurred the establishment of the Baron Hirsch agricultural settlements at the end of the 19th century. National Director of Immigration Abel Barrionuevo and Israeli Ambassador Ram Nirgad were guests of honor. The major towns founded by the original Jewish agricultural settlers were Montefiore, Lucienville, San Antonio, Lopez Reno, Walter Moso, Villa Alba, Santa Isabel, Mauricio, Colonia Hirsch, Dora, Leonardo Cohen, Roca Bernasconi, and Charata.

A festival of Jewish music at the SHA theatre, featuring cantorial and modern Israeli music, was held in May. A month later the Yiddish theatre of AMIA presented Sholem Aleichem's *Stempeniu*, directed by the Israeli producer Shmuel Bunin.

August was convention month, featuring the regional convention of DAIA, and the conventions of the Latin American Jewish Congress, the Labor Zionist movement, and of synagogues affiliated with the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano and CENTRA on the occasion of the Seminario's *bar-mitzvah* celebration. At the Labor Zionist meeting, the organization's Secretary General Simon Edinburg stated: "At this moment there are in the community non-Orthodox elements, whose Jewish perceptions and ideas are most interesting and respectable. At the moment, these sectors are isolated and I am convinced that one of the objectives of Avodah must be to do something to bring them closer." The Labor Zionists also held the traditional third seder on April 1, and sponsored a special lecture series, "Argentine Judaism 1975," in March and April.

Jewish Education

AMIA's *Wa'ad Ha-hinnukh* (board of education) administered the Jewish school system of Greater Buenos Aires under the direction of Argentine-born Jacov Rubel, who was educated at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. In 1975 Greater Buenos Aires had 44 Jewish schools, with an enrollment of some 16,000 students. A total of some 19,000 students attended Jewish schools throughout the country. A yearly summer seminar for teachers was given at Mar del Plata in December, sponsored by the *Wa'ad Ha-hinnukh* and financed with Israeli and other foreign Jewish funds. AMIA's Midrasha ha-Ivrit was the oldest and most important institution in Latin America for the training of Jewish teachers. Its enrollment was 250, with an additional 20 students attending courses in Israel. Its director continued to be Rabbi Mordechai Ederly (Conservative).

The month of August witnessed a series of crippling strikes by the teachers' union which demanded substantial increased in salaries. Yitzhak Korn, secretary general of Avodah in Israel, who attended the Labor Zionist convention in Argentina in that month, was "completely amazed and shocked by the undefinable indifference of the vast majority of Argentine Jews to the local economic emergency and its consequences on Jewish education." A few months ago, he recalled, "we spoke together

of doubling the number of students, and now we are talking of the possible collapse of the entire educational system.”

Jewish-studies courses continued to be offered by the South American office of the American Jewish Committee at El Salvador Roman Catholic University; Jacobo Kovadloff was coordinator and Rabbi Esteban Veghazi (Conservative) professor. Dr. Abraham Blejer, for the last 20 years professor of Hebrew in the National University of Rosario, announced new courses in Jewish philosophy and culture. Many synagogues and schools offered lecture series throughout the year and maintained summer-camp programs. The Instituto de Intercambio Cultural Argentino Israeli, sponsored by the Israel Embassy, held Hebrew courses for adolescents and adults.

Religion

Rabbi David Kahane, who had been in Argentina for nine years and headed the AMIA's rabbinate, returned to Israel in January. His successor, Rabbi Menachem Fitterman, also from Israel, took office in June. He was prohibited by contract to involve himself in politics. The AMIA rabbinate consisted of three men: Rabbi Fitterman of Buenos Aires, Rabbi David Tabachnik of Rosario and Rabbi Ben Oliel of Bahía Blanca. The Lithuanian synagogue (Orthodox) observed its 75th anniversary in May. Two Conservative synagogues, Bet Israel and Culto Israelita de Belgrano, merged to form one congregation, Beni Tikvá, under Rabbi Reuben Nisenbom.

Press and Publications

Few important Jewish publications appeared in 1975, because of the rise in production cost and a waning interest in Jewish books. The drop in sales at the 28th annual book fair of AMIA in September, too, reflected this situation. Some 6,000 titles—2,500 in Hebrew, 2,000 in Yiddish, over 1,000 in Spanish, and about 400 in rabbinical literature—were on sale.

New books to appear were: *Sindicalismo en Israel* (“Unionism in Israel”), a study published by the Argentine Friends of Histadrut (February); *Testimonio*, published by the Argentine Committee for the Study of the Situation of the Jewish Minority in the USSR; more than a dozen booklets, published by the Latin American branch of the World Jewish Congress in its series on Judaism, Jewish biography, and history; *23 Siglos de Antisemitismo*, a Spanish translation of Edward H. Flannery's *Anguish of the Jews*, published by Editorial Paidor and Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano (May); a Spanish translation of Luzzato's *The Path of the Just—Mesilath Yesharim*, published by Editorial Sigal (May).

The AMIA's department of culture published an anthology of texts by Martin Buber, entitled *Humanismo Hebreo y Nacionalismo* (“Hebrew Humanism and Nationalism”) in May. DAIA and OSA published *Argentina e Israel, una Tradición*

que nos honra ("Argentina and Israel, a Tradition that Honors Us"), an anthology of pro-Zionist statements by leading Argentine figures in the past half-century.

A Spanish translation of selected works of the Yiddish poet Itzik Manger was also published by AMIA. A new edition of Alberto Gerchunoff's famous *Los Gauchos Judíos* ("The Jewish Gauchos of the Pampas") was issued by Editorial Aguilar to honor him on the 25th anniversary of his death. On that occasion, a movie by the same name had its premiere to critical acclaim; it drew an audience of 250,000 in the first two weeks.

Sergio Leonardo received honorable mention by the National Foundation of the Arts for his book *El Torrente* ("The Torrent") on Amadeo Modigliani. José Narosky was awarded the José Hernández prize in literature by the International Academy of History for his book of aphorisms, entitled *Si todos los Hombres* ("If All Men").

The only Yiddish daily, *Di Presse*, continued to appear, despite repeated rumors of imminent bankruptcy. A new Yiddish-language journal, *Schreiber Tribune*, began publication in January. The Jewish weeklies were the German-Spanish *Jüdisches Wochenblatt* and *Mundo Israelita*, organ of Mapai, which completed its 52nd year of publication. The Mapam fortnightly *Nueva Sión* and the Spanish fortnightly news magazine *La Luz* also continued to appear. The Spanish quarterly *Majshavot*, published by the World Council of Synagogues and the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano, was devoted to modern Jewish thought and theology. The literary magazine *Davar* was issued by the Sociedad Hebraica Argentina. The students of the Midrasha ha-Ivrit published the Hebrew-language *Darom*.

Relations with Israel

Israel Ambassador Ram Nirgad's diplomatic activities, as well as his frequent television and other public appearances, drew praise from Jewish and Christian commentators. In January Argentine intellectuals Rodolfo Mondolfo, a Jew, Ernesto Sabato, and Rizieri Frondizi protested UNESCO's anti-Israel resolution. On the occasion of Israel Week, which was celebrated in Mar del Plata at the end of February with government and clergy representation, Ambassador Nirgad stated that Israel's imports from Argentina were ten times its exports to that country (it bought 7,000 tons of Argentine meat during 1975). Nirgad and other embassy staff members also participated in the Israel Week celebration of Congregation Benei Tikvá in May.

Traditional Israel Independence Day celebrations were held in all leading Jewish organizations in April. In March the liberal Zionists held their congress in Buenos Aires; Aryeh L. Dultzin of the Jewish Agency participated. The 14th congress of WIZO, which took place in Buenos Aires in June, was attended by 120 delegates. In October in Buenos Aires, Pioneer Women and the Sephardi Friends of Moetzet Hapoalot met with representatives from Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay, and with Tamar Eshel, Pioneer Women's secretary in Israel.

Some 2,500 Jews, including hundreds of young people, participated in a mass meeting at the Coliseo Theatre, Buenos Aires, to express their solidarity with the State of Israel before the adoption by the UN General Assembly in November of the resolution equating Zionism with racism. Several days after the vote, from which Argentina abstained, another mass protest meeting was called at the Plaza Lavalle, which drew about 2,000 people, the vast majority of them youths.

Alyiah figures were not available, but it was rumored that, contrary to expectations, Argentine emigration to Israel decreased in 1975. Indeed, many Argentines returned to their native country as *yordim*.

For the first time, an Argentine choral group, the Coro Polifónico de la Municipalidad de Merlo, participated in the 9th festival of choral music held in Israel in April.

Among Israeli visitors to Argentina were also General Aharon Yariv, who was principal speaker for the Israeli Independence celebrations; Professor Shlomo Simonsohn, rector of the University of Tel Aviv; General Uzi Narkiss; Abraham Schenker of the World Zionist Organization; Haim Finkielsteyn of the Jewish Agency; Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef; Chaim Zohar, Jewish Agency and WZO official; Keren Ha-yesod president Ezra Shapiro; novelist David Markish; Rabbi Richard Hirsch of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

Antisemitism

Without a doubt, antisemitism was more prevalent in 1975 than in any other year. At one time or another during the year, the large newspapers dedicated lead editorials to the subject. While hundreds of acts of violence, including bombings of Jewish schools and synagogues and personal attacks, took place in all big cities, there was no record of any arrests.

Tacuara (AJYB, 1976 [Vol. 76], p. 274) surfaced in resort areas in January and February. Other active antisemitic groups, all operating out of Buenos Aires, were: Falange de Fé in Córdoba; Centuria Universitaria Nacionalista; Falange Restauradora Nacionalista, operating from the San Francisco de Sales School under Jordán Bruno Genta; Centuria Nacionalista under Juan Carlos Monedero; Agrupación Nacionalista Argentina under Walter Beveraggi Allende, and the Partido Acción Nacionalista, whose press organ was *Cabildo*.

In February one of the Argentine television networks (all these, as well as radio, were under government control) produced *La Bolsa* ("The Stockmarket"), a notorious antisemitic play by Julian Martel. In March the city of Rosario renamed a street for Palestine in an official ceremony, at which many violently antisemitic slogans were shouted. The official *Bulletin of the Nation* of February 19, 1975, published a *Declaration of Principles of Political Action* of the Movimiento Nacionalista, which stated: "We confirm that the white-slave trade and drug traffic are two instruments utilized by Zionist imperialism to corrupt our youth. This should be investigated as a conspiracy against our nation."

The notorious antisemitic journal *El Caudillo* ceased publication at the end of

March, but reappeared in October under the editorship of Felipe Romeo, who charged under the caption "The Best Enemy is a Dead Enemy" that "Mrs. Perón's enemies are Marxist infiltrators." In a policy statement he indicated that the paper would be "orthodox . . . pure Peronist. We support Isabel unconditionally because she is the leader and always right." On November 13 Peronist deputy Jesús Porto demanded the arrest of Felipe Romeo. Porto and Heriberto Kahn, a Jewish journalist with *La Opinión* who, according to Buenos Aires *Herald* editor Robert Cox, "probably did more than any other one person to let in the light when it seemed that darkness might forever envelop this country," had repeatedly been threatened with death. Porto claimed that *El Caudillo* was the headquarters of the ultra-rightist fascist AAA (Argentine Anticomunist Association), which enjoyed virtual immunity from the police despite its terrorist actions. It was known that AAA engaged in many antisemitic activities.

Throughout the year the Argentine press once again emphasized the infamous Andinia Plan which, Walter Beveraggi Allende charged in 1971, involved a Jewish conspiracy to create a Jewish state in the South of Argentina (AJYB, 1972 [Vol. 73], p. 439). In May a story by journalist Miguel de la Cuadra Salcedo of Madrid, describing the alleged plan and concluding that "the area is extremely rich in petroleum and thus there is no need for further comment," was carried in such papers as *Señal*, *La Opinión Austral*, *El Litoral*, and *Córdoba*. It was also printed in the Mexican newspapers *El Nacional* and *Novedades*. Radio station LV3 maintained a direct telephone communication with Madrid on the Andinia Plan.

In May, too, perhaps as a result of the Andinia calumny, there were several antisemitic manifestations. In the city of Mendoza, posters appeared with the inscriptions. "We will make soap with Jewish blood" and "Be patriotic, kill a Jew." In Rosario, the 25-year-old Hebrew-hour radio program was canceled and replaced by a program on Arab culture. At the same time, a violently anti-Israel, Arab-sponsored antisemitic television presentation, "Around the World through Argentine Eyes," was shown for two consecutive Saturday evenings. It was strongly condemned by DAIA and the national press.

Although Leon Uris's *QBVII* was shown on Buenos Aires television, it was prohibited in the interior, and many who were involved in the productions lost their jobs. Several bombs were placed in the cinema on the day of the premiere of *Los Gauchos Judíos*, and antisemitic leaflets were handed out.

The government refused to grant the Córdoba Jewish community permission to hold a meeting commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising on ground that officials could not provide the necessary security.

Leading antisemitic publications were: *Restauración*, *Cabildo*, *El Fortín*, and *Patria Peronista*. The last affirmed that the Bunge & Born Company's summer residence was used to train Jewish terrorists in a Betar camp. *El Guardián de la Soberanía Nacional* gave actual statistics of alleged Jewish spies working in the Argentine army, navy, air force, and government. *Milicia* published frank glorifications of Hitler and Nazi Germany.

One of the most blatant examples of antisemitic propaganda was an advertisement

in cartoon-form for Walter Beveraggi Allende's book, *La Inflación Argentina*, which appeared in *La Razón* of May 8. It showed Argentina nailed to the cross with Jewish stars, while the caricature of a Jew in skullcap and hammer in his hand stood by.

Peronist leader Norma Kennedy created a very tense situation when she stated, on June 17, that "the Argentine public will no longer put up with these individuals [the shopkeepers of Libertad Street and Once, preponderantly Jewish commercial areas]; we will no longer tolerate their vile business practices. If we see hoarding of sugar or any other product, we will put it out for sale immediately, and, if necessary, we will use sticks and whips." In response to an immediate protest from DAIA, she maintained that she did not refer specifically to Jewish citizens.

Arab antisemitic strategy in Argentina, according to DAIA president Nehemías Resnizky, was twofold: 1) to whip up the university students, and 2) to disseminate hatred in the mass movements. In June a pro-Arab mass was celebrated in the Basilica de Guadalupe in Buenos Aires in honor of the Palestinians who had fallen fighting for the liberation of Archbishop Hilarion Capucci in Jerusalem (AJYB, 1976 [Vol. 76], pp. 403-04). The principal celebrant of the mass was the delegate of the Armenian Church, Clemente Malgián.

In September Horacio Calderón, a well-known antisemite, was appointed head of the press department of Buenos Aires University. Raúl Sánchez Abelenda, its rector, was a priest and student of the late Julio Meinvielle, a notoriously antisemitic priest. At the end of the year Calderón published a venomously antisemitic book, *Argentina Judía* ("Jewish Argentina"), blaming the Jews for all the country's ills. Calderón presented a copy to Libyan President Muammar al-Qaddafi at the Vatican-Islamic Conference, in Tripoli in February 1976, which the author attended as a member of the Argentine delegation.

Personalia

Asher Mirkin, leader of Herut and active in the Argentine Zionist Federation, died in Buenos Aires in February, at the age of 75. Hector Sus, a leader of Comunidad Bet El and of Club Atlético Sefaradi Argentino, died in an automobile accident in February, at the age of 32. Pablo Palant, lawyer, author, and novelist, recipient of the 1956 national prize in literature, died in Buenos Aires in March, at the age of 60. Israel Dujovne, former president of Hebraica and of the Argentine General Confederation of Management, died in Buenos Aires, at the age of 68. Fanny Karduner, a leader in Jewish education, died in Buenos Aires in October, at the age of 54. Jacobo Wengrover, former Keren Kayyemet le-Yisrael president, died in Buenos Aires in October. Jaime Rajchenberg, former president of AMIA, died in Buenos Aires in December, at the age of 51.

NAOMI F. MEYER

Brazil

Domestic Affairs

THE GROWING STRENGTH of the Movimento Democrático Brasileiro (MDB; Brazilian Democratic Movement), the only opposition party, as indicated in the November 1974 legislative elections, has been the most remarkable fact of Brazilian politics. Predictions for the 1976 municipal elections and the gubernatorial elections of 1978 in the 21 states of the federation were for even more gains. Political observers, believing that this situation might lead to a deadlock with an unforeseeable outcome, suggested that the elections be called off, or that a change be made in the number and set-up of the existing parties.

At the same time, the government intensified repression of the leftist movements and its opposition to the reorganization of the outlawed Communist party. The policy of “*distensão gradual*” (gradual distension), a democratization in stages proclaimed by Brazil’s President Gen. Ernesto Geisel, has met resistance, making for uneven results.

The development of the economy, as indicated by the policies initiated by the military successor regime which took office in 1964, has depended on a continuous influx of foreign capital and the increase of exports. However, the world crisis triggered off by the increase of oil prices has limited both investment and export, bringing the economy to an impasse. This fact is important for an understanding of Brazil’s international political behavior. Because the country imports 80 per cent of its oil, the increase in the oil price has severely undermined the balance of payments. It became necessary to ask for higher foreign loans in an effort to stabilize the GNP growth rate, which had dropped from 10 per cent in 1974 to 4 per cent in 1975. Brazil’s foreign debt rose to 22 million dollars in 1975, with a tendency to rise even more as a result of the annual payment deficit caused by oil purchases. The government tried to reverse this trend by removing the traditional state monopoly on oil and working with multinational corporations to prospect for Brazilian oil resources in order to reach energy self-sufficiency. On the other hand, the government has initiated diplomatic and commercial drives to increase exports and to try to get petrodollar loans.

Foreign Relations

In this light must be seen the establishment of diplomatic relations with China and the approach to African countries, even those ruled by Communists, as well as the change in attitude toward the Middle East conflict. From an “evenhanded”

position, indicated by abstentions on UN resolutions censuring Israel, Brazil has moved since the end of 1973 toward veiled agreement with the Arabs and, finally, in November 1975, voted for the UN General Assembly resolution defining Zionism as a form of racism.

The combination of political and economic steps taken by the government will not bring immediate results. Therefore, an aggravation of Brazil's economic situation was to be expected in years to come, and this would probably mean a continuation of the present foreign policy, especially support of the Arab countries in international bodies.

It is a well-known fact that an important sector of the armed forces was opposed to the government's Middle East policy and how it has been implemented. This sector has regarded Israel as an ally of the West in the Middle East, a stand that may bring about a change in policy, especially in view of expanding Soviet influence on the African continent.

Contrary to expectations, bilateral relations between Brazil and Israel have not been significantly affected. Several programs of technical assistance to government projects, sponsored by the Israeli Tahel corporation, remained in operation. There have also been studies to establish an agricultural-industrial entity in the state of Minas Gerais, with the active participation and guidance of Kibbutz Bror Chail, which was founded by Brazilian immigrants in Israel.

ANTI-ISRAEL VOTE IN UN

The outstanding fact in Brazilian-Israeli relations in 1975 was Brazil's vote in favor of the UN General Assembly November resolution stigmatizing Zionism as a form of racism (p. 97). The political-economic reasons for the Brazilian decision were given above. However, it must be emphasized that Brazil was expected to abstain on the issue. Current interpretations had it that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted three options to President Geisel: abstention, a vote in favor, or a vote against the resolution. The decision was said to have been made by Geisel himself. Another source claimed that the vote had been inspired by Minister of Foreign Affairs Azeredo da Silveira, whose leanings were clearly anti-Zionist and who had misinformed the president about the consequence of the vote.

The Jewish community reacted on the political and the communal levels. On the political front, a delegation consisting of Benno Milnitzky, president of the Jewish Confederation of Brazil (CIB); Heinz Leo Katz, president of the Jewish Federations of São Paulo, and Elizer Burlá, president of the Rio de Janeiro Federation was received by President Geisel on December 1, 1975. While the reasons behind the Brazilian vote were not discussed, the delegation emphasized the concern of Brazilian Jewry that the vote might mean a policy of tolerance toward antisemitic acts. President Geisel reassured his visitors that the concern of his government with the well-being of the Jewish community and its good relationship with other sectors of Brazilian society will remain unchanged, and that restrictions on Zionist activities

by his government were out of the question. He asked to be informed of any antisemitic act, so that appropriate measures could be taken. The meeting was given wide coverage by the press, particularly the government press agency, in an attempt to separate international from internal politics and to lessen criticism and concern among Brazil's Jews.

In the community, two days before the Jewish leaders met with Geisel, a public ceremony was held, honoring the memory of Oswaldo Aranha, the late Brazilian Foreign Minister who had presided over the UN General Assembly session at which the State of Israel was established. Some 6,000 people attended, among them Manoel Gonçalves Ferreira Filho, vice-governor of the state of São Paulo; Olavo Egídio Setubal, mayor of the city of São Paulo; leaders of political parties, federal and state deputies, councilmen, intellectuals, artists, and others, in tacit manifestation of disavowal of Brazil's position on this issue.

The major newspapers, in an attitude of uncommon opposition to a government decision, editorially expressed their disagreement with the country's diplomatic behavior, which they considered contrary to Brazilian tradition. The publications in question were *O Estado de São Paulo*, *O Jornal da Tarde*, *Folha de São Paulo*, *Jornal do Brasil* and *O Globo*, the last two published in Rio de Janeiro, as well as *Manchete* magazine, owned by Adolpho Bloch, a Jew. Among the really small minority of papers supporting the vote were *Tribuna de Imprensa* (Rio de Janeiro), *Folha da Tarde* (São Paulo), and the weeklies *O Pasquim* and *Movimento*, both with strong appeal for the youth and leftist movements.

Leaders of both political parties spoke out publicly against Brazil's position. In the National Congress, important senators like Tarso Dutra of the government party (Aliança Renovadora Nacional; ARENA) and Paulo Brossard of the opposition party (MDB) disagreed with the vote, as did MDB deputies Padre Nobre, Léo Simões, Antunes de Oliveria, Navarro Vieira, and Milton Steinbruck, and ARENA deputy Cunha Bueno.

Several leaders in politics, culture, and the economy signed a manifesto disavowing the Brazilian position, which was published by the press. These included Oswaldo Aranha Filho and his son Euclides Aranha Neto; former Foreign Minister Alfonso Arinos; Austregésilo de Athayde, president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters; former President Juscelino Kubitschek; Ambassador Francisco Negrão de Lima; João Brasil Vita, president of the São Paulo municipality, and Sabato Magaldi, the municipality's cultural secretary.

ANTI-ZIONISM

There have been isolated antisemitic incidents, which were, however, not worthy of comment, except for a controversy sparked off by a letter to the editor of *Jornal da Tarde* on the paper's pro-Israel position, which involved the supposed Jewish origin of its publishers.

As elsewhere, the Arab boycott affected corporations owned by, or connected

with, Jews, which were barred from participating in an industrial exhibition in Saudi Arabia. Companies like Cica (food products), which traded with Israel, and others like Industrias Klabin, owned by a Jewish industrial group, were placed on the Arab blacklist.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Community Life

The 1975 activities of the Confederação Israelita do Brasil (CIB; Jewish Confederation of Brazil), the over-all representative organization of Brazil's 160,000 Jews, concentrated on the improvement of community life throughout the country. A National Communal Fund was set up to provide the means for the institutional, cultural, and spiritual development; but its allocations, though rather substantial, were considered insufficient to cover all needs.

The national conference of the state Jewish Federations, which was held in São Paulo in September, dealt largely with issues related to problems of education and Jewish youth. The encouragement given to streamlining communal activities through mergers of local institutions with similar programs, schools, and welfare agencies has shown its first results.

Ofidas, the oldest Jewish organization in Brazil, with offices in São Paulo, celebrated its 60th anniversary. A merger of the agency with EZRA and the Policlínica Linath ha-Zedek was being considered for a more effective rationalization of their activities.

International events had repercussions on the community level. In addition to the reaction to the UN anti-Zionist resolution there was the disavowal of the UNESCO vote by 120 Brazilian intellectuals, among them the writer Érico Veríssimo, a great friend of Israel who died in December 1975, who signed a statement which was published in *O Estado de São Paulo*, *O Globo*, and *O Journal do Brasil*, the country's major newspapers.

The situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union had an emotional impact on the Jewish community. Special departments for Soviet Jewry were established by the Federations of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in August 1974. The Russian writer David Markish, who was guest of the community in May 1975, gave a series of talks on the plight of the Soviet Jews. The Brazilian chapter of the Israel Medical Association sponsored a statement repudiating the trial in the USSR of the Jewish physician Michail Stern, which was signed by more than 100 Brazilian non-Jewish doctors.

Religious Life

There is an acute shortage of rabbis in Brazil. During the 1975 High Holy Days services for the 70 Jewish families of Brasília were conducted by students of the

yeshivah of Petropolis, near Rio de Janeiro. Even as large a community as Porto Alegre's, with more than 4,000 families, had to be supplied with sermons prepared by São Paulo rabbis, who also sent youth leaders to conduct services. Curitiba for the first time had its own rabbi, David Benhayon, a graduate of the Tangiers Seminary in Rio de Janeiro. The Associação Israelita of Rio de Janeiro appointed a young American rabbi, Robert Baruch, while the Congregação Israelita Paulista in São Paulo engaged Marcelo Rittner of Buenos Aires to join its rabbinate.

There has been overlapping in the religious programming of the synagogue and community center, the *shul* and the club. São Paulo recreational centers like the Hebraica and the Círculo-Macabi have, in recent years, stepped up religious services in their activities. The Hebraica, with more than 8,000 family members, engaged Cantor Julio Waichenberg of Jerusalem for the High Holy Days. Special traditional and innovative services were held for the youth. The Círculo-Macabi also chose to commemorate Yom ha-Azma'ut and Yom ha-Sho'ah in a most moving and solemn way. Simultaneous with the religious growth of the clubs and community centers was the extension of the influence of the congregations and religious schools in the social and cultural spheres.

The Congregação Israelita Paulista in São Paulo, under the spiritual leadership of Rabbis Fritz Pinkuss and Henry L. Sobel, and the Associação Religiosa Israelita in Rio, with the spiritual guidance of Rabbi Henrique Lemle, continued to serve Brazil as the leading liberal congregations. Religious services included sermons formulated in modern terms, interpreting the old tradition in new light. A new prayerbook, prepared by the Congregação Israelita Paulista in 1974, offered new insights into Jewish liturgy. Friday-evening services at the Congregação have been well attended, with younger people constituting a large part of the congregants. At least once a month Sabbath services have been conducted by youths serving as cantors and rabbis. Similar youth-oriented religious projects have been instituted in other leading cities.

A *Habad* movement in São Paulo, which is Lubavitch in orientation, continued its activities, particularly the *Bet Habad*, directed by Rabbi Shabsi Alpern (AJYB, 1976 [Vol. 76], p. 281). The movement has been publishing a monthly bulletin and arranged periodic religious events. For Hannukah 1975, *Habad* manufactured 10,000 menorahs, which it distributed free of charge.

Eight thousand people participated in an October ecumenical service in the São Paulo Cathedral in memory of Wladimir Herzog, a prominent young journalist and director of educational television in Brazil. Herzog died on October 25 in the military headquarters, where he had been summoned to be interrogated on his alleged subversive political involvement. According to the official communiqué, Herzog committed suicide while under investigation. A handwritten suicide note was found in his prison cell. A wave of protests swept the entire country: journalists, intellectuals, and the clergy in the leading cities participated in a series of demonstrations against what was called "a blatant violation of human rights." At the ecumenical service, Rev. James Wright of the Episcopalian Churches of Brazil, Evaristo Cardinal Arns, Archbishop of São Paulo, and Rabbi Henry I. Sobel of the Con-

gregação Israelita Paulista officiated. The public listened attentively to the three speakers, all of whom defended human rights, and to the chanting of the *El Male Rahamim* as well as to the *Kaddish*.

Sephardi congregations, such as Ohel and Mekor Chaim, have introduced youth programs and intellectually stimulating cultural activities. The Ashkenazi Sinagoga Centro Israelita de São Paulo, one of the oldest synagogues in the city, which had been torn down and replaced by a modern, spacious building, accomodated 1,500 persons at weekly religious services.

Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, who came to São Paulo on a five-day visit in August at the invitation of two Sephardi congregations, had a full schedule of meetings with Brazilian and other Latin American rabbis, Hebrew teachers at Jewish day schools, and with Paulo Egydio Martins, the governor of the State of São Paulo.

In 1975 in São Paulo, there were 189 marriages, of which 39 were intermarriages with the conversion of one partner to Judaism. These figures indicated a decrease of all marriages (194 in 1974) and an increase of the intermarriages (28 in 1974).

Education

Enrollment in the 12 São Paulo Jewish schools was 5,348, including the Externato Osvaldo Aranha in Santo André, an industrial town near São Paulo with several hundred Jews, and the Renascença, the Hebrew-Brazilian Faculty for Education, Science, Language, and Literature (AJYB, 1974-75 [Vol. 75], p. 375). Jewish school attendance showed an increase from 4,767 in 1972; 4,962 in 1973, and 5,199 in 1974. The large majority of the students—3,437—attended "first degree" courses (elementary and secondary school); only four of the 12 schools offered "second degree" courses (college-level). Among the latter were the Yavneh school with 17 students, and the I.L. Peretz school, which in 1975 opened "second degree" courses, with 59 students. The mayor of São Paulo donated a large piece of land to the Peretz school for a new educational center.

The Renascença Institute shared with the Integral School of Montevideo (Uruguay) the 1974 Shazar Prize for Latin America of the World Zionist Organization's Department of Education and Culture in the Diaspora. All schools on the college level were to offer professional training for teaching science, and lower schools were to offer technical and science courses and be equipped with laboratories, study centers, and workshops. After an experimental period, a technical school for teaching crafts was to be created.

Rio de Janeiro has six schools with approximately 4,500 students: Talmud Torah Eliezer Steinberg and the Max Nordau, Scholem Aleichem, A. Liessin and Bar Ilan schools. Schools in other states were: Escola Israelita Brasileira Jacob Dinezon, with 58 students in Bahia; Theodor Herzl and Albert Einstein schools, with an enrollment of 350 in Belo Horizonte; Escola Galano Guelman in Curitiba; Escolinha Israelita de Manaus, with 60 pupils in Manaus; Ginasio Israelita Pernambuco, with

600 students, in Pernambuco, and Colégio Israelita Brasileira, with an enrollment of 1066, in Porto Alegre.

Higher Education

The Center of Jewish Studies, after six years of steady development, was proceeding with full recognition by the University of São Paulo faculties of philosophy, sciences, and languages. Credit was given in Jewish history, philosophy, linguistics, and Oriental languages. The Center, at which some 700 Jewish and non-Jewish students were enrolled, offered courses in modern, medieval, and ancient Jewish history, Jewish philosophy, Jewish sociology, and Hebrew literature and language.

As a result of efforts by the São Paulo Jewish Federation's Department for Jewish University Students, a Jewish University Council was established in August. Its aims were to encourage and strengthen common activities of student groups, to which only 400 of the city's 4,000 Jewish university students belonged, to serve the community, and to supply it with information.

Immigration

The government continued its liberal immigration policy in 1975. There were no exact figures for Jewish immigrants who entered Brazil without agency assistance. Their number was estimated at several hundred, including those from neighboring countries. HIAS assisted 45 Jewish immigrants from Lebanon, 14 from the USSR, eight from Rumania, two from Egypt and one from Chile, and 67 additional applications for assistance were pending. By the end of 1975, HIAS Latin American headquarters in Rio had recorded 2,580 registrations, mainly from Latin American citizens seeking the immigration of relatives in the Middle East, principally Syria, in North Africa, and Europe. HIAS found communication difficulties both inland and at departure points, a particular problem in effecting the emigration of Lebanese Jews wanting to join their relatives in Brazil.

Sports

The fourth Latin American Maccabi Congress was held in São Paulo in October. Delegations from Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Mexico, and Argentina, as well as Israel Peled, president of the Maccabi World Union, and Betzalel Weinchall, its secretary, attended. The Congress decided to hold the next Panamerican Maccabiah in July 1976 in Lima, Peru.

Sports in Brazil's Jewish schools was stimulated by competition held in October, in which some 1,000 students from Jewish schools participated. It was sponsored by the Brazilian Macabi Confederation in cooperation with the São Paulo Jewish Federation school board.

Relations with Israel

Aside from the community's strong show of support of Israel in response to UN action, an attempt was made to reinforce ties with the state. The anniversary of Israel's independence was celebrated in April 1976 at São Paulo's town hall; Israel's ambassador and consul in São Paulo and representative personalities of the community participated. Israel Week was marked by activities at the Copacana Palace Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, in the second week of November, arranged by the local Zionist group in cooperation with the Israel consulate general and WIZO.

Prominent visitors from Israel and other Jewish communities came to Brazil in 1975. Besides Chief Rabbi Yosef, the community welcomed Aryeh Dultzin, president of the Jewish Agency; Gainor Jacobs, vice president of the United HIAS, New York; Ilona Ben Ami, an Israeli delegate to the International Women's Year in Mexico; Tamara Eshel, secretary general of Pioneer Women, and Rosa Herczeg, president of the International Council of Jewish Women. In the arts, Sculptor Pinchas Eshet represented Israel in the Arts Biennial of São Paulo; performances were given by the Gevatron and Giora Friedman music ensembles, the Inbal dancers, and the singer Yoram Gaon; the motion-picture producer David Perlov; and a number of artists including Alexander Bogen, the painter.

Community Relations

Jewish participation in Brazilian life has remained relatively high. A significant number of Jews were in politics, though the incentive to seek national office was low. Three Jews—Ruben Medina, Emmanuel Waisman, and Milton Steinbrück—were members of the Chamber of Deputies, and there were several Jewish state legislators and councilmen. Two executive posts in important federal agencies were occupied by Jews: Mauricio Schulman was president of the National Housing Bank and Isaac Kesterneke was president of the Brazilian Institute for Statistics and Geography. Curitiba, the capital of the state of Paraná, has had two Jewish mayors: the internationally known urbanist Jaime Lerner, who was succeeded in office by the present mayor, Saul Raiz, an engineer and a former executive of the Jewish industrial group Klabin. Joseph Barat was state secretary of transports in Rio de Janeiro, and Jorge Wilhelm state secretary of planning in São Paulo. Joseph Mindlin, the state secretary of science, culture, and technology, resigned on February 9, 1976, because of administrative misunderstandings.

Scholarship and Publications

The Brazilian Jewish Historical Archives were established in July 1975 to preserve all documents relating to the history of the Jews in Brazil, from the country's discovery in 1500 to the present. Under the direction of Professors Nachman Falbel, Jacob Guinsburg, Fanny Kon, Janete Meiches, and Dora Ruhman, the institution

was to be more than a repository, having among its aims the stimulation of research in Brazilian Jewish history and the exchange of information with similar Jewish organizations all over the world.

The third Jewish book exhibit was held in São Paulo in November under the sponsorship of the Israeli consulate, the secretary of culture of São Paulo city, and the secretary of culture, science, and technology of São Paulo state.

Several books of Jewish interest were published in 1975, most of them by editors and groups linked to the community. Isaac Bashevis Singer's *Sata em Gorai* ("Satan in Goray") was published by the decade-old Editora Perspectiva. The Editora Summus published three books dealing with subjects related to Israel: *Gabriel nao é um anjo* ("Gabriel Is Not an Angel"), by Arnold Sherman; *Os novos israelenses* ("The New Israelis"), by David Schoenbrun, and *Entre Inimigos* ("Between Enemies"), a dialogue between Amos Elon and Sana Hasson, an Israeli and an Arab, on the Middle East conflict.

The publications department of the São Paulo Jewish Federation, operating since 1973, continued its activities. In 1975 it published three books: *O renascimento do Estado Judeu* ("Rebirth of the Jewish State"), by Matti Megued; *O Levante do Gueto de Varsóvia* ("The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising"), by Joan Turcow, and *História de um extermínio* ("History of an Extermination"), by Simha Sneh and Lon Lene-man. They were distributed to community agencies and schools, as well as public libraries, the press, government, and intellectuals. Shortly before Passover, it also published *A Quarta Matzá* ("The Fourth Matzah"), a Haggadah dedicated to the embattled Soviet Jews.

Editora Documentario published *A Circuncisão, o Rito e o Mito* (The Circumcision"), by Marcos Margulies, *As origens do totalitarismo* ("The Origins of Totalitarianism"), by Hannah Arendt, and *Antisemitismo: instrumento de poder* ("Antisemitism: Instrument of Power"), by Marcos Margulies.

Other books to appear were: *Os Judens no Brasil Imperial* ("Jews in Imperial Brazil"), by Egon and Frieda Wolff, published by the Center of Jewish Studies of the University of São Paulo, and *Mulheres em Israel* ("Women in Israel"), a collection of Pioneer Women writings.

News about the Jewish press included the 25th anniversary of *O Novo Momento* ("The New Moment"), the only Yiddish-language paper in São Paulo, and the tenth anniversary of *Shalom* magazine, which in 1975 began the series "Shalom Analysis" on issues of concern to the community, with "Israel and the Palestinian Problem" and "Zionism" as the first articles to be published.

Personalia

Ernest Moritz, director of the Jewish Federation of São Paulo, former vice president of CENTRA and chairman of the board of Congregação Israelita Paulista from 1972 to 1974, died in São Paulo on February 28, at the age of 44; Dr. Carlos Alberto Levy, communal leader, several times vice president of the Congregação Israelita

Paulista, died in São Paulo in February, at the age of 71; Tofic Nigri, vice-president of the Jewish Federation in Rio and of the Jewish Confederation of Brazil, died in Rio de Janeiro in March, at the age of 76; Jacob Schneider, one of the most influential community leaders of Rio de Janeiro, founder of the Zionist movement in Brazil and of most community institutions in Rio, long-time leader of Keren Ha-yesod, died in Rio in July, at the age of 88; Jacob Parnes, editor of the weekly *Brazilianer Yiddishe Tzeitung*, which he founded in 1952, and active communal worker, died in Rio on December 8, at the age of 74.

PATRICIA FINZI FINGERMAN