

ACTIVITIES
OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
1975 - 1980

REPORT TO THE SEVENTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
GENEVA

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Seventh Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Jerusalem, to which this Report of Activities is submitted, will take place in a climate of doubt, uncertainty, and change. At the beginning of the 80s our world is rife with deep conflicts. We are perhaps entering a most dangerous decade.

Great changes on the political scene are occurring which will leave their mark on the political order of the coming years. A new administration has just been elected to head the most powerful partner of the Western alliance. The recent disappearance of Premier Kosygin is the harbinger of a near-term changing of the guard in the leadership of the Eastern bloc.

This world of change is characterized by a series of challenges to the world balance of power. We have witnessed in recent years a notable weakening of the influence of the Western democracies, who traditionally were our best allies. A strengthened Eastern bloc constantly seeks to extend its power base. China, a country with which the Jews have so far been unable to establish constructive relations, appears on the horizon as a great power with an enormous political and economic potential in the foreseeable future. The continuing growth of Arab economic and political power has an immense impact on the policies of Western powers dependent on Arab oil. The Third World has emerged as an influential factor in international politics and is frequently in alliance with the Soviet and Arab blocs in international forums. A new militant fundamentalist Islamic movement full of hatred toward the Western tradition and full of resentment and prejudice with regard to the Jewish people has made its entrance on the world scene. And finally, the growing use of violence and terrorist methods in political power struggles has become a feature of our daily life and allows small but determined fanatical groups to destabilize the existing order and cause immeasurable harm to a great number of innocent people.

The Jewish world is troubled by the realization that the postwar period is definitely over. In many ways it was one of the best eras for us. We obtained nearly universal recognition of our civil and political rights; acceptance as a religious and cultural minority in the growing number of countries in which cultural pluralism prevails; reparation in large measure for material losses suffered during the Nazi years; and, last but not least, our own state, with all its political, social, and cultural implications for the communities of the Diaspora.

Memories of the Holocaust have dimmed. There is a new generation today, which does not regard itself as owing the Jews anything because of the Holocaust. Two thirds of those alive today were either born after 1945 or were babies or very young children during the war years. I doubt that

the crop of publications denying the facts of the Holocaust that have been published in the past few years would have found any readers in the ten or fifteen years after the war. Now new ideological movements again put forward theories on the inequality of races and peoples and biological concepts that foster racialism and racial discrimination and denounce the "Judeo-Christian" influence on our civilization.

Clouds are gathering on the horizon. The growing isolation of Israel on the world scene has immediate repercussions on the relations between Jewish communities and their governments. Israel is under constant attack in international organizations. Daily, it is branded as a violator of basic international principles, as the delinquent of the international community. Crisis situations increase. We take note of the recent fall-off in Soviet Jewish emigration and the growing expansion of anti-Semitic attitudes in the Soviet press and literature. In Iran we face a fanatic Islamic fundamentalism and for the first time death sentences are imposed on Jews because they are Jews. In a number of countries in the Western hemisphere there is a growing disregard of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The increasing centralization of power in government has serious consequences for the personal freedom of the citizen, a factor that particularly affects minorities and Jews, even if these countries do not officially pursue anti-Semitic policies. Finally, we are encountering a new wave of anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism, particularly, but not only, in Europe.

These developments have created feelings of anxiety and insecurity in the Jewish world. We have today migration movements on a scale not seen since the immediate postwar years: Soviet Jews, Iranian Jews, Latin American Jews, other Jews... .

Jews everywhere ask themselves, particularly since the attack on the Rue Copernic synagogue : Are we reliving the 30s? Are we nearing a new catastrophe?

There are both differences and similarities in the situation as compared with the 30s.

At that time, Europe, with a few exceptions, was an anti-Semitic continent. The governments of nearly all Central and East European countries were violently anti-Semitic and pursued openly discriminatory policies against their Jewish populations. In this they were supported by popular mass movements. Hitler's Germany was the capstone in this picture and became the driving motor inspiring and financing Nazi-style organizations in many countries, pouring anti-Semitic propaganda into the world by radio, by the printed word, and through emissaries and fifth columns.

Today there are no anti-Jewish governments in Europe. Governments may be critical of some of Israel's policies, but they do not organize anti-Jewish movements. There are no mass movements or large popular parties that preach the Nazi gospel, and the results of recent elections in Germany, Britain, and other countries confirm this.

Those responsible for the anti-Semitic incidents are small groups using violent and lethal methods which they have learned from the extreme Left. Their main aim is the destabilization of democratic society. Jews are one of the targets in this dangerous game.

Today, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, uniting representatives of 21 parliaments, unanimously denounces these anti-Semitic and racist activities and the Committee of Ministers supports these decisions and reaffirms their determination effectively to combat racism, fascism, and terrorism as a matter of priority. Such action was unthinkable in the 30s, as were the large manifestations of solidarity that took place in many countries after the attack on the synagogue in Paris.

But nevertheless we have to be vigilant. A generation that has witnessed and experienced the horrors of the Holocaust cannot afford to let down its guard. The small and apparently isolated groups behind the attacks -- and there have been no less than 125 anti-Semitic and racist attacks in France alone since 1975 -- have to be seen in the wider context of the economic and social crisis that is affecting an increasing number of countries, not only on the European continent. The existence of such groups is symptomatic of a restless society, characterized by growing inflation and increasing unemployment. More and more members of the younger generation cannot find jobs and are growing desperate. If this crisis develops further, the situation will have dangerous implications in the long run. We should not forget that the Nazi movement too had its origin in a threefold crisis: national, economic, and social, and without seven million unemployed it would never have acceded to power.

Our priorities are clear. In the face of the steady undermining of Israel's position in international forums and the constant application of double standards to Israel, we have to stand by Israel and mobilize the Jewish communities in the service of Israel's fight for peace and security. We have to teach those friends whose support is weakening that they must distinguish between the essential and the nonessential and that the real battle should not be about any single Israeli action with which they may or may not be in agreement, but about the right of Israel to exist and live in security. There is no excuse, there is no moral right in their refusing to give their support on this essential point.

We have to stand by Soviet Jewry in their fight for the right of emigration and for the facilities to live a Jewish life in the Soviet Union for those who cannot or do not want to leave. We have to do this by responsible action, taking into consideration that this fight is more difficult to wage in a period of tension and confrontation than in an era of international

détente and cooperation. We have to realize that any aggravation of the international climate, any serious confrontation between the major blocs, cannot be good for Soviet Jews, for our contacts with the East European communities, and for Israel, which could become one of its first victims.

We have to continue our support to Jewish communities in distress, to pursue our struggle for human rights everywhere and for the rights and status of Jews wherever they are threatened or endangered, and we have to mobilize the Jewish people in the new fight against anti-Semitism.

What needs to be done by world Jewry will be fully discussed by the forthcoming WJC Plenary. We will have to show not only wisdom, but also determination. But above all, we must stand together in a strong organizational framework. We must ensure the inner strength and commitment of the Jewish communities without which we will never be able to weather the storms that lie ahead: we must fortify organizational cohesion and Jewish unity.

Geneva, December 31, 1980

Gerhart M. Riegner
Secretary General

II. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

It is axiomatic for the World Jewish Congress to intensify the bonds of world Jewry with Israel and together with Jewish communities all over the world, to strive unrelentingly for the security of the State and the wellbeing of its people. The WJC has manifested its steadfast and unswerving solidarity with Israel in its struggle against the mounting tide of hostility from the Arab and Islamic states of rejection, allied with Eastern bloc states, to which has been added the general, if somewhat varying, support of Third World countries, particularly those of the African continent, on a number of recurring themes which have characterized the last six years since the 6th Plenary Assembly.

At successive meetings of the Executive, the Governing Board, as well as at the General Council meeting in November 1977, the WJC has expressed its support for Israel on several basic issues, on which the main organs of the United Nations, notably the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, have been the forum for a series of unprincipled and mendacious onslaughts. Israel's detractors have singled out the Jewish state among the nations as an alleged violator of international obligations, whether in the field of humanitarian law or human rights, in the face of the state's undaunted defence of its vital security interests and its refusal to bow to political, economic, and terrorist attacks mounted against its people at home and its representatives abroad.

The consistently aggressive stance of the Arab and Islamic world was to some extent countered by the emergence of the Camp David accords, signed on 17th September 1978, in which a framework for peace in the Middle East was elaborated between Egypt and Israel, with the active involvement and mediation of the United States as a signatory. The process was taken a decisive step forward by the historic Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel which entered into effect following its signature in Washington on 26th March 1979.

However, the Jewish world has had to contend with the continued and unrelenting process of slander and the application of double standards in the endless flow of anti-Israel and anti-Zionist resolutions in United Nations organs secured by the automatic majority. WJC action has thus of necessity been concentrated on countering what has been regarded as an attempt to delegitimize the state of Israel at the UN and in its Specialized Agencies as well as at other international forums, following the adoption on 10th November 1975 by the UN General Assembly of the most pernicious resolution to-date, perversely entitled "Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination", whose sole operational paragraph purported to determine that Zionism was a form of racism and racial discrimination. This calumny has been regarded

as the benchmark for vilification and defamation of the state at every occasion when Israel's most fanatical enemies have sought to score political points, usually at the expense of agenda items intended to deal with economic, social, cultural or humanitarian issues of basic concern to the world community.

The WJC has also been heavily engaged in resisting by all appropriate means, abuse of procedure at UN sessions in which the Camp David process and the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty have been denounced.

It has also played an active role in expressing the concern of the Jewish people for the future of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and as the focal point of the aspirations of the world Jewish community.

In the latter part of the period under review, the WJC has also been preoccupied with the shift in balance by Europe, away from Israel, reflected to a large extent in the changing policy of the European Community.

The WJC's role in its support for Israel on these key questions and related issues has been expressed in three principal ways, namely: (1) policy pronouncements by the major WJC organs; (2) active encouragement of the affiliated communities to act in support of Israel on specific issues within their local context, usually through interventions with governments, political parties, religious bodies and social institutions -- perhaps the most important instrumentality of the WJC; (3) by representations in support of Israel at the international forums in which the WJC has effective representation or access, particularly the UN organs, certain of the Specialized Agencies, namely Unesco and ILO, as well as the Council of Europe, and through contacts with the European Economic Community. In the latter instance this has taken the form of contacts with the EEC organs, namely through contacts with members of the European Parliament, and on important issues with members of the Council at ministerial level, primarily through the communities, and with members of the European Commission in Brussels.

The WJC had for long been anticipating the acceleration of the campaign initiated in 1975, of anti-Israel and anti-Zionist attacks, when observers of the Latin American Jewish Congress attended the ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Lima at the end of August of that year. Attempts were made through contacts with delegates and other participants to counteract Arab initiatives against Israel. Such hostile initiatives had already been foreshadowed by the attempt at the World Conference of International Women's Year in 1975, held in Mexico, to link Zionism with imperialism, colonialism, and racial discrimination. While the Lima conference did not follow the attempt made the previous July in Kampala by the Organization of African Unity Assembly of Heads of State and Governments, which called on member states to reinforce pressure against Israel at the UN and its Specialized Agencies, "including the possibility of eventually depriving it of its membership in these institutions", the final document of the Lima conference did, wherever possible, link Zionism to racism, colonialism, and apartheid, and in particular exhorted countries to combat Zionism. The Latin American Jewish Congress issued

a statement criticizing the resolutions adopted by the Lima conference as manifesting partiality and prejudice, reflecting the pressure of the Arab countries and their allies.

In September 1975 it was clear that the defamatory campaign against Zionism would take the form of a frontal attack on the Jewish people and Israel at the General Assembly. The WJC Executive, at its October meeting in Jerusalem, expressed its deepest concern at "the attempts of a bloc of countries to force through the UN and other international conferences, resolutions defaming Zionism and equating it with imperialism, colonialism, racism, and apartheid. Such an equation, politically motivated, falsifies the nature of Zionism and presents it in a perverted form which amounts to incitement to anti-Semitism and racial hatred."

The WJC Executive urged all affiliated communities and organizations to take immediate action to mobilize public opinion against this anti-Zionist campaign.

On 19th October, following adoption by the UN General Assembly's Third Committee of the resolution later to be confirmed by the Assembly's plenum, alleging that Zionism was a form of racism and racial discrimination, Dr. Nahum Goldmann made the following declaration which was widely recorded in the media:

"Not only Jews but fairminded people throughout the world will be shocked to learn that the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, in a resolution adopted on Friday by 70 votes against 29 with 27 abstentions, declared Zionism to be a form of racism and racial discrimination. This resolution is a travesty of historical facts and a defamation of the national liberation movement of a people which, for two millennia, was deprived of a national existence and the right of self-determination, and was subjected to most cruel persecution.

"The resolution does more harm to the prestige of the United Nations than it does to Zionism. It also distorts the meaning of racism and racial discrimination; by simply equating it with anything that some nations disapprove of, the concept of racism is debased and the fight against the evil of racial discrimination, in which Jews and Zionists traditionally played an important role, will inevitably be weakened.

"The Third Committee resolution will come before the full Assembly. The World Jewish Congress appeals to all member states to reverse the Committee's decision and restore truth and sanity in the United Nations, and create an atmosphere in which this great organization can serve rather than undermine understanding among the nations of the world."

Intensive action to prevent confirmation of the resolution by the General Assembly plenum, was taken by the WJC regional branches, offices, and departments, including approaches to the UN Secretary-General, prime ministers, foreign ministers, other political leaders, and to embassies of many countries. Meetings and demonstrations were organized and articles and advertisements published in the Jewish and general press through national member organizations and associated international organizations of the WJC throughout the world. The International Affairs Department and WJC officials raised the question of the impending anti-Zionism resolution at the UN General Assembly with diplomatic representatives of several European countries. The representatives of certain African states in London were also approached. Dr. Goldmann raised the issue with President Tito in Yugoslavia and with President Senghor of Senegal, urging that their countries abstain from the vote in the General Assembly when the Third Committee's resolution was submitted for confirmation. Appropriate representations were made to the Vatican in Rome and the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, the Chairman of the WJC Governing Board, representing the WJC, together with six other Jewish nongovernmental organizations enjoying consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, wrote officially to the President of the UN General Assembly, protesting at the increased politicization of human rights debates in the UN, and characterizing the Assembly's attempts to equate Zionism with racism as "subverting the UN struggle against racial discrimination". The WJC New York office circulated copies of the letter to all UN delegations, with the exception of those known to be implacably hostile on this issue.

Following the adoption of the resolution in November, the WJC and its national members and international affiliates took part in a series of protest actions. Mr. Klutznick, as the Chairman of the Governing Board, headed a delegation of WJC officers and delegates from throughout the Diaspora, to a three-day conference on Jewish solidarity held in Jerusalem early in December 1975, convened by the Israel Prime Minister and the Acting Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, where a programme of action to reinforce the Zionist ideal and to intensify world Jewish solidarity with Israel was adopted.

The consequences of this resolution have been deep and widespread throughout the UN system. It affected the WJC's participation in the Programme for the UN Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination for so long as the resolution seeking to identify Zionism with racism remained an integral part of the Programme. It found its expression in the decision of the WJC not to attend as observer the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in Geneva in August 1978. It influenced decisions taken by the Executive Committee and the General Conference of Unesco, by the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization, and by the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization, where representatives of the automatic majority adopted a stream of resolutions and decisions hostile to Israel,

on issues alien to the normal preoccupations of these agencies, usually deliberately ignoring favourable reports issued by their own experts on the specific issues under examination. On all these occasions the WJC has endeavoured, primarily with the help of member communities, to counteract these flagrantly partial resolutions, by calling for counterpart national professional groups related to the agencies concerned, to point out the contradiction of these condemnatory resolutions with the evidence produced by the reports which these Specialized Agencies themselves commissioned.

Further expressions of the 1975 General Assembly resolution were to be seen in particular in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly in December 1979, condemning hegemonism as a concept in which "racism, including Zionism and apartheid" was placed alongside imperialism, colonialism, and neo-colonialism as "forces which seek to perpetuate unequal relations and privileges acquired by force and are therefore different manifestations of the policy and practice of hegemonism". The WJC did not permit the relative obscurity of this text, pushed into the background by the events in Iran and in Afghanistan, to escape without firm protest. It called on national members and affiliated organizations to register the strongest possible protests with regard to those states which neither voted against the reference to Zionism nor at the very least abstained.

The most recent occasion at which the WJC was called upon to denounce the sinister and grotesque practice of coupling Zionism with concepts to which it is diametrically opposed, was the second World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, which took place in Copenhagen in July 1980, where the WJC was represented. The WJC was instrumental in preparing documentation to counter misrepresentations on the condition of Palestinian women in the territories.

Despite the regret expressed by several Western states, notably the US, Commonwealth and Western European countries, at the introduction of extraneous issues deflecting the attention of the conference from its essential purposes, it was clear that the same anti-Israel and anti-Zionist forces were active at the end of the current period of reporting in 1980.

The Copenhagen Women's Conference resolution, just adopted by the UN General Assembly at the current 1980 session, endorsed the previous Mexico City declaration of 1975, as well as the Programme for the second half of the UN Decade for Women, entitled "Equality, Development, and Peace", passed at Copenhagen in July 1980, in which the unacceptable connotation of Zionism has been made, arising out of the inordinate concentration on the alleged effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women, both within and outside the territories. It is only by reference to the Copenhagen text itself that the renewal of this calumny emerges. National members and affiliated organizations of the WJC must therefore be aware of this entrapment, when asked to support the notionally worthy programme for the rest of the Decade. The WJC must thus continue to be vigilant on this and related issues.

From the outset the WJC has voiced active encouragement for the Israel-Egypt negotiations process, following the Israel Prime Minister's invitation issued in Jerusalem and its prompt acceptance by the Egyptian President in Cairo. Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, following his election to the WJC presidency, was present at the historic Knesset session addressed by the Egyptian President and the Israel Prime Minister in November 1977. On the occasion of his meeting with President Sadat in Washington on 6th February 1978, Mr. Klutznick expressed support for the security and defence of Israel and full identification with its legitimate aims, which could only benefit from a just peace settlement in the Middle East. The WJC President also took the opportunity, shortly thereafter, to convey the WJC's views to President Carter, on the new Middle East negotiating process.

In anticipation of the signature of the Peace Treaty in Washington, at which the WJC President was present on 26th March 1979, the Governing Board of the WJC, meeting on 23rd March in Geneva, expressing "the sentiments of the entire Jewish people, rejoices in the forthcoming signing of the Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt and expresses its profound gratification that a major step towards a Middle East settlement is about to be achieved.

"The WJC is conscious of the great and far-reaching significance of this event for Israel, the Jewish people, the Middle East, and the entire world. A 30-year-old yearning for peace by those who proclaimed Israel's independence is about to be fulfilled as regards Israel's most important neighbour and a leading Arab state. The WJC is confident that enlightened world opinion will realize the sacrifices Israel made and the risk it assumed to achieve peace."

At the same time the WJC called on all nations to lend their full support to this historic treaty and to encourage other Arab states to join the peace process in the Middle East.

The changes in the Middle East, highlighted by the promise of peace held out by the Camp David accords, led to the creation of the WJC Economic and Social Commission in October 1978. The Commission -- under the chairmanship of Baron Guy de Rothschild and whose members include outstanding industrialists, labour leaders, economists, and academics from four continents -- was given the task of assessing the economic and social effects of peace in the Middle East on Israel and the Diaspora. Its report is to be received by this Plenary Assembly.

In July 1979 the WJC's President visited Egypt at the invitation of President Sadat, when he had discussions with the President, with Vice-President Mubarak, and with other government officials and political personalities. During this visit and in later contacts with the Egyptian Ambassador Ghorbal in Washington, Mr. Klutznick stressed the importance of assuring the continuation of the peace process.

At its plenary session in Sao Paulo in November 1979, the Latin American Jewish Congress welcomed the progress made between Israel and Egypt in the Middle East peace process, and issued a warning that the attempt to introduce a PLO office in Latin America represented a danger for the traditional peaceful coexistence of the Arab and Jewish communities of the region.

Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman, Acting President of the WJC, took the occasion of a meeting with President Sadat in Washington, at which he led a WJC delegation of 11, to convey to the Egyptian President that Jewish public opinion was united on three points: the unity of Jerusalem under Jewish sovereignty; belief in the ultimate success of the Camp David process; and that Israel's defence should be solely in Israel's hands.

However, the Jewish world had to contend with the growing campaign of the Arab rejectionist front to repudiate the Camp David peace process enshrined in the Treaty of Peace, which it attempted to denigrate at all successive UN meetings. At the 34th General Assembly session in 1979, a bitter confrontation took place between Arab and African states on an amendment to a resolution on the question of Palestinian self-determination, which, in an unmistakable reference to the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty, condemned "all partial agreements and separate treaties", whose sponsorship the African group refused to endorse. In the Third Committee, the amendment was adopted without a majority of even those who participated in the vote (59 for, 36 against, 36 abstentions, and 20 not participating). In the plenum the resolution was adopted as a whole by a large majority. Nonetheless it emphasized the inconsistency of traditional support for the Arab cause on this specific issue. Moreover, to condemn the only positive and constructive step towards peace in the Middle East is an astonishing action on the part of an organization whose Charter calls for "the peaceful settlement of disputes" and whose major purpose is "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

In October 1979, the WJC was invited to play a direct role on the question of Jerusalem in response to the UN Security Council Commission of three states, established under Security Council resolution 446, to "examine the situation relating to settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem". The Commission solicited the views of the WJC as part of its invitation to "high-ranking representatives of the three great monotheistic religions, to submit their views on the protection and preservation of the unique spiritual and religious dimensions of the holy places in Jerusalem." The UN Security Council Commission had previously solicited the Christian views from the Vatican and the World Council of Churches, and the Muslim viewpoint was requested from the Islamic Conference.

Since the Commission's terms of reference rendered it inadvisable for the WJC to respond directly, the WJC Secretary-General, following consultations with the Executive, submitted the WJC's position in a letter addressed to the UN Secretary-General. The WJC statement reaffirmed the

declaration on Jerusalem unanimously approved at the 6th Plenary Assembly of February 1975, which still bound the Jewish member communities and organizations from the 66 countries affiliated to the WJC, and stressed the character of Jerusalem as "the immemorial center of the spiritual life and aspirations" of the entire Jewish people, and the conviction that Jerusalem would "fulfil its vocation in human history as the city of peace and reconciliation, of social justice and human brotherhood." It was pointed out that the government of Israel and the Jerusalem municipal authorities had convincingly demonstrated the effective guarantees of free access and safeguarding of the holy places of all faiths and absolute freedom of worship for all religious communities. The statement provided an occasion for the expression of solidarity of world Jewry with the people of Israel in their determination to maintain the unity and integrity of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Since the subsequent report of the Security Council Commission, while including the viewpoints of the Vatican and the WCC, omitted any reference to the WJC's reply, (the response of the Islamic Conference having been unascertained), on the grounds that the WJC's reply could not be addressed to the Commission due to its unacceptable terms of reference as noted, the WJC made its reply public.

More recently, an attack on the status of undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital was reflected in the reported statement of the UN Secretary-General at an Arab League dinner in July 1980, that "foreign forces have to be withdrawn from the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem." At a subsequent meeting with the WJC Acting President, Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman, Dr. Waldheim maintained that his remarks had been misunderstood and that he favoured secure and recognized borders for Israel and all other Middle Eastern States. On 1st March 1980, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution in which Jerusalem was linked to a general call for the dismantlement of Israeli settlements in the territories. President Carter subsequently termed the American affirmative vote a "mistake" and at a private meeting arranged by the WJC, he conveyed assurance to an American Section delegation that the voting error would "never be repeated again."

The increased tendency of the major Western European countries to adopt a more critical stance of Israel while at the same time moving towards closer political and economic ties with the Arab states of confrontation, led to the decision to establish a special committee of representatives of the WJC communities in the EEC countries, taken at the Milan meeting of the WJC European Branch in September 1977 and endorsed at an ad hoc meeting of European delegates at the General Council meeting in Washington in the subsequent November. The Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF) agreed to be associated with the work of this committee.

The inaugural meeting of the committee took place in Paris in January 1978. During the course of 1980, joint meetings of the WJC European Branch EEC Committee and CRIF took place to consider the deteriorating situation in the Middle East peace negotiations and the movement discerned among EEC governments towards inclusion of the PLO as a negotiating partner, without first requiring it to abandon its avowed purpose of destroying Israel.

Following the EEC-CRIF Committee meeting in London in March 1980, a statement was issued urging EEC countries to refrain from any further declarations and initiatives which would interfere with the Arab Israel peace process and could only harm the Camp David negotiations. It particularly deplored the attempts to involve the PLO, whose declared aim is the destruction of Israel, in the negotiations, and urged EEC governments not to change the basis of the current peace efforts, notably resolution 242 of the Security Council. It was agreed to bring the concern of the Jewish communities of the EEC to the attention of national Parliamentarians of member countries and to intensify approaches to national friendship-with-Israel groups, members of the European Parliament in each country, trade unions, intellectuals, journalists, and other opinion-setting and professional groups.

At the beginning of the following May the WJC European Branch, meeting in Paris, expressed its profound regret at the resolution adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 23rd April 1980, which called for the replacement or amendment of resolution 242 and expressed doubts on the Camp David agreement as the basis for a comprehensive peace settlement. The European Branch also used this occasion to give expression to its strong objection to the fact that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe equated Israel's right to existence with the demand of the PLO for recognition as a negotiating partner. Representatives of the EEC Committee and CRIF met on this occasion in special session, and following up on their previous London meeting, adopted guidelines for specific measures on representations to the European Community concerning the Middle East peace negotiations.

Following the London and Paris meetings of the EEC Committee and CRIF, representations were accordingly made on the eve of the EEC summit meeting in Venice in June 1980, to each of the governments of the nine member countries of the EEC by their respective Jewish communities, namely, the Committee of Coordination of the Jewish Organizations of Belgium, the Mosaiske Troessamfund of Copenhagen in Denmark, the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France, the Central Council of Jews in the Federal German Republic, the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland, the Federation of Italian Jewish Communities (Unione), the Consistoire Israélite of Luxembourg, the Federation of Dutch Jewish Communities in Holland, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews in the United Kingdom. The governments of the Nine were urged not to take any initiative aimed at amending or replacing Security Council resolution 242 and not to accord recognition to the PLO, particularly in the light of its recent renewal of its dedication to the destruction of Israel.

Following the statement issued by the Venice EEC summit on 30th June 1980, the WJC European Branch EEC Committee and CRIF issued a joint communique regretting the onesided nature of the Venice statement. While recognizing the right of the Palestinians to be represented in the peace negotiations, through their freely chosen representatives, the WJC-CRIF declaration pointed out the incompatibility between the EEC call for the PLO to be involved in the negotiations and the PLO's avowed purpose to destroy Israel, whose right to exist had been explicitly recognized by the EEC through its reaffirmation of the principles of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 on which the Camp David accords and the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty were based.

Following the decision at earlier meetings to seek direct contact with members of the European Parliament, a combined delegation of the WJC European Branch EEC Committee and CRIF, led by Baron Alain de Rothschild, met with over 50 members of the European Parliament from 8 of the 9 countries. The discussion between the WJC EEC Committee-CRIF delegation and several MEPs concentrated on several current issues, including the attitude of the Israel government in the peace negotiations. The Jewish representatives stressed the continuing responsibility of all Israel governments, compelled to respond to the challenge of peace and security both for Israel itself and the region at large. All members of the WJC/CRIF delegation contributed to an active exchange in which the European Parliament was called upon to make a contribution to arriving at a proper understanding of the true perspectives for peace in the Middle East. The meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Tom Normanton, a Conservative Member of Parliament from the UK, was arranged through the informal Friendship for Israel Group at the European Parliament. It was agreed that there should be a repeat of this experiment at the next suitable opportunity.

ACTION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

The heinous attack on the Rue Copernic Synagogue of Paris in October 1980 brought to public consciousness, as no other event in recent years had, the painful realization that the world is not yet free of anti-Semitism. That the WJC would react sharply to the bombing was clear. But Rue Copernic cannot be viewed in isolation. The general struggle against anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism has been an ongoing and central concern of the WJC since its inception. And the lesson is clear that anti-Semitism, in all its various manifestations, is not the exclusive reserve of any single ideology, geographic region, or historical period. Nor can those who fight against anti-Semitism remain oblivious to the wider struggle for human rights in general. Both are dependent one on the other; for where a threat exists to the civic and political rights of any group, the security and wellbeing of Jews is also endangered. It is on the basis of these fundamental premises that the WJC has acted in its continuing struggle against the evil of anti-Semitism.

The various forms of anti-Semitism have necessitated different responses. In some manifestations racist, anti-Jewish intent is clear; in others, the poison of bigotry seeks outlet in camouflaged guises. Consequently, no one strategy suffices in combating anti-Semitism. To be effective, the response must be appropriate to the provocation and the international connections between anti-Semitic groups must be identified and denounced.

In part of Western Europe and Latin America resurgent anti-Semitism -- usually emanating from the Right -- has manifested itself in violent acts against Jews, Jewish property, and institutions. Where such attacks have originated with lawless groups and individuals, the WJC and its member communities have been instrumental in securing official governmental condemnation of these criminal actions. The WJC has provided the Council of Europe and the United Nations with numerous submissions and memoranda on this matter.

At its Brussels meeting in September 1978, the WJC European Branch adopted a plan of action to combat the increase of anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi manifestations. The five-point programme urged ratification by all European countries of the relevant international conventions; the adoption of national legislation prohibiting incitement to racial and religious hatred and outlawing Nazi-type organizations; more effective education toward democratic ideals and against anti-Semitism and racism, including the teaching in schools of the history of the Holocaust; the initiation in all countries of democratic fronts consisting of political parties, churches, trade unions, social organizations, and immigrant groups to fight against neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism; and the publication of suitable informative material for the widest possible distribution.

In October 1980, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution "on the need to combat resurgent fascist propaganda and its racist aspects". By the resolution's text reflecting numerous suggestions put forward in the course of WJC representations, the Council "condemns ... attacks, which are all the more repugnant in that they have been perpetrated against innocent crowds, Jewish children, immigrant workers and refugees." The text of the resolution

" welcomes:

- a. the initiative taken by the Council of Europe's European Youth Centre in organising a conference on Intolerance in Europe in Strasbourg from 9 - 11 December 1980;
- b. the importance accorded by the Council for Cultural Cooperation to the preparation of school children for life in a democratic society by the project on secondary education entitled 'Preparation for Life';

urges the governments and parliaments of member states:

- a. to take appropriate action to attack the root causes of the ills from which such propaganda springs by ensuring access for all to justice, to the right to work, and to culture and education, which should in particular include adequate teaching of modern history, so that young people will be better prepared to promote democracy;
- b. to adopt, where it does not already exist, legislation directed against actions inspired by racism and xenophobia, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1(d) of the United Nations Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which entered into force on 4 January 1969, and with Committee of Ministers Resolution (68) 30 of 31 October 1968 on the prohibition of racial, national and religious discrimination;

calls on the Committee of Ministers to approach the member governments with a view to their taking more positive and appropriate action against subversive fascist and Nazi groups and safeguarding free and democratic institutions against acts of violence which have now assumed the proportions of frequently recurring massacres;

calls on the Committee of Ministers to take action on Assembly Recommendation No. 855 of 2 February 1979 by approaching the member governments with a view to their signing and ratifying the European Convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitation to crimes against humanity and war crimes of 1974 (paragraph 10.i of the Recommendation), to taking whatever steps may be necessary to ensure that crimes do not escape punishment (paragraph 10.ii), and to improving their cooperation for the purpose of prosecuting the perpetrators of these serious crimes (paragraph 10.iii). "

In a follow-up communique some two weeks later, the Committee of Ministers "reaffirmed their determination effectively to combat racism, anti-Semitism, fascism, and terrorism."

In the United States, the World Jewish Congress elicited the following statement from the President's National Security Adviser, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, reacting to a spate of neo-Nazi outbursts in October 1980: "These outrages remind us of extremely ugly historical events that are a terrible stain on mankind. They show that anti-Semitism is deeply rooted and not easily erased. One would have thought that World War II had put an end to anti-Semitism. But we must remain vigilant for some have not learned history's tragic lesson."

These and similar declarations have the cumulative effect of placing the perpetrators of anti-Semitic outrages beyond the pale of civilized standards of behaviour and make explicit the criminal nature of their activities.

Anti-Semitic literature has long served the purposes of the propagators of hate. Such "classic" works as Mein Kampf and The Protocols of the Elders of Zion continue to appear in new editions. The recent emergence of the latter in Tunisia prompted direct WJC intervention with high Tunisian officials with a view towards halting dissemination of the anti-Semitic work. Assurances were received that no official backing or sanction was behind circulation of this literature.

New, and more subtle, forms of anti-Semitic material are being produced. An especially pernicious form of this new genre of anti-Semitic literature is the attempt to deny the truth of the Holocaust, the gas chambers, and the extermination of millions of Jews. There are today more than 50 pseudo-scholarly works by neo-Nazis and their cohorts which deliberately distort history and make the obscene accusation against Jewry of having engaged in a massive hoax aimed at extorting money from Germany and political support from the world. The number of these works is growing daily. The WJC has repeatedly denounced this trend. Notably, the WJC's General Council voiced its concern with this odious development in November 1977 and condemned the appearance "scarcely more than three decades after the unparalleled horror of the Holocaust, of pamphlets, books, and films which deliberately seek to distort one of the most tragic chapters in the history of the Jewish people, denigrate its victims, and vilify the survivors." The IJA, which has exposed several of the falsifications of the history of the Nazi years, is currently engaged in a major survey of the findings of 35 years of serious research on the Holocaust which should become an authoritative document on this subject. The WJC has also supported, and partly initiated, a programme combating these falsifications within the framework of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Anti-Semitic material of the extreme Left must also be added to the catalogue of anti-Jewish literature previously confined to the far Right. This form of vilification is now quite familiar, fraught as it is

with the harshest anti-Zionist and anti-Israel rhetoric. The resolution adopted by the 30th session of the UN General Assembly, declaring Zionism to be a form of racism, has become the general point of departure for rhetoric of this kind. The blatant utilization of these thinly veiled anti-Semitic canards by some East European and Third World states has given rise to profound disquiet. In a formal submission to the March 1977 session of the UN Human Rights Commission, the WJC drew attention, inter alia, to this troubling phenomenon: "... a new and disquieting kind of anti-Semitism has reared its head in a particularly sinister form, which may be loosely termed as political anti-Semitism. This many-headed hydra seeks to cloak its hate propaganda in the guise of an attack on Jewish national identity. By the ceaseless international campaign of vilification and denigration it seeks to delegitimize the status of the Jewish people and its expression of national identification. This campaign is undoubtedly one of the principal causes of the regeneration of contemporary anti-Semitism."

The WJC is alert to every opportunity to combat anti-Semitism and recognizes that the fight against it has to be waged on more than one level: nationally, regionally, and internationally. At the national level, the fight is conducted by the affiliated community, either by representations to its government or informational campaigns, with help where this is requested, from both the regional Branch of the WJC and the world leadership.

In Europe and Latin America, for example, the regional Branches of the World Jewish Congress not only assist the member communities in their fight against anti-Semitism by providing information and coordinating efforts, but also act for these communities when approaches need to be made to the Council of Europe or the Organization of American States in connection with the struggle against anti-Semitism. At the national level, WJC member communities have acted aggressively in confronting anti-Semitic manifestations. To cite just a few recent examples:

In 1978, the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Greece submitted a detailed memorandum to the Greek Prime Minister, outlining various areas of discrimination against Jews. The President and Vice-President of the Central Council met with the Prime Minister, who promised to put an end to certain practices, for example in regard to the appointment of Jews as army reserve officers and the inclusion of Jews in juries.

In the spring of 1979 the representative body of Argentinian Jewry, DAIA, formally protested against the heavily and exclusively Catholic content of a new course -- entitled "Moral and Civic Education" -- which the Argentinian Ministry of Culture and Education had declared compulsory for all students in the country's secondary schools. Thanks to the continued efforts of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and liberal groups in the country, a new decree was issued in March 1980, reformulating the course's contents

and removing elements that the DAIA had cited as offensive to Jewish susceptibilities. The subjects covered by the course were also modified to include references to Judeo-Christian concepts, the Mosaic law, and the people of Israel. Describing the new decree as very positive, DAIA urged the Jewish community -- especially pupils and their parents -- to watch closely its implementation in the schools.

A delegation of the Central Jewish Committee of Uruguay met in August 1979 with the Uruguayan Minister of the Interior to express the concern of the Jewish community over repeated anti-Semitic occurrences in Montevideo. The delegation called attention in particular to the sale and distribution of anti-Semitic literature and pointed out that such activities were inimical not only to the Jewish community but to Uruguayan society as a whole. The Minister promised to take necessary measures.

Following representations made by the Confederation of Jewish Associations of Colombia (COAJ) -- which represents Colombian Jewry in the WJC -- the Diners Club of Colombia in December 1979 withdrew the Protocols of the Elders of Zion from the list of books it offers to members. COAJ also requested the Colombian government to introduce legislation imposing fines and other penalties on those convicted of involvement in publishing and distributing anti-Semitic propaganda.

Following the vandalization of a memorial plaque which had been dedicated several weeks earlier by the Paris municipality in memory of the 12,000 Jewish children deported from France between 1942 and 1944, the WJC French Section and the CRIF organized a mass demonstration on February 10th, 1980, to protest the desecration.

Drawing on its recognized status as an accredited organization to global bodies, the WJC takes action on the international level as well. At the United Nations, for instance, the WJC formally circulated a protest on the occasion of a virulent anti-Jewish diatribe of the Syrian delegate at the 1979 session of the Human Rights Commission. Similarly, the WJC has reacted in appropriate fashion at the various Specialized Agencies of the United Nations such as Unesco, the World Health Organization, and the International Labour Organization.

Responsibility for monitoring developments relevant to the fight against anti-Semitism and for providing the necessary information is a principal task of the research arm of the World Jewish Congress, the Institute of Jewish Affairs. The IJA scrutinizes all major developments on the basis of reports it receives from the 66 communities affiliated to the World Jewish Congress throughout the world, and by monitoring some 40 periodicals published by neo-Nazi and rightist groups in various countries. It publishes regular reports on these findings, as well as a special journal, Patterns of Prejudice.

The persistence of anti-Jewish elements in the religious dogma of Christian sects has been a recurring topic taken up in dialogues with Christian leaders. In addition, Christian support in the general struggle against anti-Semitism has been sought at various Jewish-Christian encounters. Hence, at the October 1979 meeting of the International Catholic Jewish Liaison Committee in Regensburg, the WJC Secretary-General raised the question of the ominous increase of anti-Semitic incidents -- characterized particularly by the use of violence -- in several European countries, and asked the Vatican authorities to undertake appropriate representations, both with state and church authorities. Similar representations were made in meetings with the World Council of Churches.

The WJC and its subsidiary bodies have created specific structures geared to the question of anti-Semitism. In Europe, the Branch's Committee on anti-Semitism has been active in this regard. In May 1979, the Committee worked out a seven-point programme of action which was subsequently fully endorsed by the European Branch. In accordance with that resolution, the Co-Chairman of the Committee in June 1979 visited Paris, Brussels, The Hague, Vienna, Milan, and Madrid, in order to study local conditions with regard to anti-Semitism, and to brief local Jewish leadership on a number of pertinent subjects in connection with organizational and operational aspects of the communities' defence and security arrangements and their political fight against right - and left-wing extremist movements.

The seriousness with which the fight against anti-Semitism is currently being pursued, was underscored by Acting President Edgar Bronfman in the immediate aftermath of the Rue Copernic bombing. Speaking in Paris on October 10th, 1980, Mr. Bronfman announced the establishment of a World Commission on anti-Semitism of the World Jewish Congress. The Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France (CRIF) agreed to join this Commission as a first step towards closer ties and association with the World Jewish Congress. In a concurrent action, Mr. Bronfman has called on the Institute of Jewish Affairs to strengthen its monitoring efforts in respect of anti-Semitic manifestations.

In a subsequent meeting of the European Branch's Committee on anti-Semitism held in Paris in November 1980, a general review of actions taken against anti-Semitism during the preceding year was undertaken and a coordinated programme for the future was discussed.

SOVIET JEWRY

The struggle of securing for Soviet Jews, collectively and individually, full enjoyment of human rights, has been accorded top priority by the World Jewish Congress for several decades. Indeed, the WJC was the first international organization to publicly raise the Soviet Jewish problem in all of its tragic dimensions, at a meeting of the World Executive in 1957. Moreover, it was the President of the World Jewish Congress who convoked the first international conference on the condition of Soviet Jewry, in Paris, in 1960.

In its endeavours on behalf of Soviet Jewry, WJC objectives have been twofold:

- freedom of emigration for Soviet Jews and cessation of persecutory measures, including harrassment, against Jews wishing to leave;
- granting of facilities to live a free and full Jewish life for those Jews who choose to remain in the Soviet Union, through the establishment of adequate institutions for their cultural and religious development in accordance with the provisions of the Soviet Constitution concerning the rights of all nationalities and religious groups.

The struggle for Soviet Jewry must therefore be on two fronts: to secure free emigration for those who want to leave, and for those who cannot or do not wish to leave, the right and the possibility to live a Jewish life.

In pursuit of these twin objectives, the WJC has consistently maintained the position that world Jewry must preserve total detachment from and disinvolvement in the motivations of cold-war policies and has continuously maintained contact with high-ranking Soviet representatives in Washington and Paris, during which general political developments of concern to the Jewish people as well as the situation of Jews in the USSR were discussed.

In general, it can be stated that the appeals and efforts made directly or through the Conference on Soviet Jewry for free emigration were not without some success. A considerable increase in emigration was discernible following the Helsinki and Belgrade Conferences and was acknowledged with appreciation by the Jewish community. Unfortunately, this situation did not last. The heightening of East-West tension, climaxing in the Afghanistan crisis, coincided with a marked drop in emigration figures and has led again to increased concern by world Jewry. On the other hand, it should be acknowledged that a few concessions have been made by Soviet authorities in the cultural field.

The detailed record of WJC activities from 1975 to the present in this area follows.

As is well known, the WJC was one of the sponsoring organizations of the first World Conference of Jewish Communities on Soviet Jewry, held in Brussels in February 1971. It participated in its preparation and was represented at the Conference, by a strong delegation. The solemn "Brussels Appeal" issued by the Conference had a worldwide echo; it made world public opinion aware of the plight of Soviet Jewry and of the concern of Jewish communities and organizations for their fellow Jews living in the USSR.

In view of the deterioration of the position with regard to the granting of exit visas to Soviet Jews and the increasing obstacles put in the way of activists, including the threat of a series of new trials, the WJC International Affairs Department urged WJC member communities in April 1975 to take appropriate action. In this connection, the WJC President met with the Ambassador of the USSR in Washington. The situation and its implications were thoroughly considered by the WJC Executive at its May 1975 meeting in London. A delegation of the Board of Deputies of British Jews discussed problems affecting Soviet Jewry with Prime Minister Harold Wilson in July.

Most WJC member organizations participated actively in various manifestations on behalf of Soviet Jewry, among them notably the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Latin American Jewish Congress, WIZO, and the World Union of Jewish Students.

At the Governing Board meeting in Geneva in July 1975, the continuation of the Soviet campaign of harassment and persecution of Jews seeking to emigrate was deplored and the Soviet Union was urged to grant emigration permits to all Jewish applicants and to assure facilities for the establishment and maintenance of a full Jewish cultural and religious life. The Board further urged closer and more effective coordination and cooperation in the work on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and called on the Executive to initiate, together with all concerned parties, a reassessment of world Jewry's policy, methods, and actions in this realm.

Largely because of the potential relevance of a positive outcome of the preparations for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) for Jews as well as for other groups in the Soviet Union, the WJC took a particular interest in the developments concerning the Conference.

In early 1975, it had become apparent that the prospective Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe would contain a chapter on matters of a humanitarian character and that these provisions might be of great importance for the position of the Jews in the Soviet Union. The WJC engaged, therefore, already at an early stage, in systematic action through representations to and contacts with many governmental delegations. These were undertaken by the Director of the International Affairs Department and by the Executive Director of the European Branch and Institute of Jewish Affairs, and supplemented by the submission of a comprehensive memorandum.

The Congress representatives expressed general support "for the aims of the Conference, which should lead to genuine détente." They discussed the humanitarian issues of Jewish concern -- freer human contacts and movement, cooperation in the fields of information, culture, and education -- with high-ranking officials of six delegations in Geneva in April 1975; the Director of the International Affairs Department had another interview with the Director of the competent department of the French Foreign Ministry in May.

In July 1975, the Governing Board meeting in Geneva emphasized in a resolution the importance of the full, speedy, and liberal implementation of the envisaged provisions concerning human rights, reunion of families, and contacts in the cultural and religious spheres.

The Final Act was formally signed by the participating states at Helsinki on July 30th - August 1st, 1975. The states expressed, inter alia, their intention to facilitate contacts and regular meetings on the basis of family ties; reunification of families; travel for personal or professional reasons; meetings among young people; and expansion of contacts, including contacts among nongovernmental organizations and associations. The Act provided for a follow-up of the Conference by procedures which include exchanges of views at meetings, the first one to be held at Belgrade in 1977 and to be preceded by a preparatory Belgrade meeting on June 15th of that year.

Under the impact of the adoption of the Final Act of the CSCE in Helsinki in August 1975, a meeting of Jewish leaders, presided by the Acting Chairman of the WZO and Chairman of the WJC General Council, was held in Paris the following month. The participants considered the deteriorating situation of Jews in the USSR and the considerable decline of emigration in the current year. A WJC delegation, composed of WJC executive officers and headed by the Chairman of the International Affairs Commission, participated in the meeting, which decided on the convening of the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry in Brussels in February 1976 as "an expression of the resolve of Jews throughout the world that every effort must be made to secure the rights and freedoms of our brethren in the Soviet Union." The WJC was invited to be among the conference conveners.

The WJC Executive agreed at its Jerusalem meeting in October 1975 to act as co-convenor of the Brussels Conference. It designed Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, Chairman of the Governing Board, as the WJC representative on the Conference's Presidium and voiced the view that "Brussels II" should not be limited to the emigration issue but should also concern itself with cultural, religious, and national rights for Jews choosing to remain in the USSR. Subsequent meetings of the Steering Committee were attended by the Governing Board Chairman and by the Executive Director of the WJC European Branch.

The Second World Conference of Jewish Communities on Soviet Jewry, held in Brussels on February 17th - 19th, 1976, was a powerful and impressive manifestation of the concern of world Jewry and of many distinguished non-Jews for the struggle of Soviet Jews. A large WJC delegation participated in this Conference, which was also attended by a great number of WJC member organizations. The Chairman of the Governing Board addressed the Conference on behalf of the WJC and played a major role in its proceedings. The Conference culminated in a solemn declaration that called on all men and women of conscience and all governments cherishing humanitarian ideals to speak out on behalf of the Jews of the USSR; it reaffirmed the determination of Jewish communities and organizations to continue proclaiming the rightful demands of Soviet Jewry. The WJC Governing Board, meeting in Paris in February 1976, approved the manifesto of the Second Brussels Conference and the statement of the Chairman of its Presidium on the necessity to continue and to strengthen, through unity of action, the fight for Soviet Jewry.

Copies of a booklet by the Director of the WJC's Institute of Jewish Affairs, The Helsinki "Final Act" and Soviet Jewry, analyzing the principles and provisions of the CSCE Final Act and their possible impact on the position of Soviet Jewry, were distributed to the delegates at the Brussels Conference and also made available for wider use. The study has provided useful background assistance to Soviet Jewry action groups and the efforts of Jewish communities throughout the world on behalf of Soviet Jews. Its full text was included in the US Congressional Record and the study was referred to in a British Parliamentary debate.

The WJC Governing Board, meeting in Geneva in November 1976, voiced, in a comprehensive resolution, again its concern at the continued harassment of Soviet Jews wishing to leave the USSR and the noncompliance of the Soviet authorities with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and other international agreements. The Board viewed with alarm anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic overtones in the Soviet media and noted with regret that the Soviet Jewish community still lacked a central communal instrument. It pleaded for clemency for the "Prisoners of Zion" and others anxious to leave for Israel. The Governing Board urged that the Soviet government correct the omission of any reference to Jews on the recently erected memorial at Babi Yar and that the holding of Jewish memorial services at the site be permitted.

The WJC Executive, at its March 1977 meeting in Geneva, noted with grave apprehension the increase of anti-Jewish occurrences and measures in the USSR, including the accusations of CIA-linked espionage levelled in the Soviet press against several Jews prominent in the struggle for Jewish rights; arrests of Jewish activists; blatantly anti-Semitic TV films and press articles; and the suppression of an attempt by Jewish scholars to call a symposium for the discussion of Jewish cultural problems. The Executive urged the Soviet government to halt the anti-Jewish campaign. At its meeting in Jerusalem, the Executive engaged in a serious analysis of the situation of Soviet Jewry.

The Presidium and Steering Committee of the Second Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry set up a committee for monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Final Act as regards Soviet Jewry. The Director of the IJA and Executive Director of the WJC European Branch was appointed committee chairman. In cooperation with the staff of the bodies under his direction, he prepared a comprehensive monitoring report. The report was submitted by 13 Jewish communities in Europe, as well as in the USA and Canada, to their respective governments in order that these matters be raised at the follow-up meeting in Belgrade. A WJC delegation contacted a large number of governmental delegates in Belgrade in June 1977, during the preparatory meeting for the follow-up meeting due to take place in October.

Also in June, the Executive Director of the European Branch made a submission to the US Congressional Committee on Helsinki, at the Committee's request, on the subject of Jewish religious and minority rights in the USSR. The submission was included in a volume devoted to the Congressional Committee's hearings, published in Washington.

In addition, proposals for better implementation of the Final Act were prepared by the IJA Director, in cooperation with the Institute's senior research officer on Soviet and Eastern European affairs and with the abovementioned monitoring committee. The proposals were presented to governments, through the respective Jewish communities, for consideration and submission at the Belgrade Conference in October 1977, which were followed by WJC observers on the spot. The Director of the WJC International Affairs Department, and the Executive Director of the European Branch, were in Belgrade from December 8th to 11th, 1977, and had interviews with numerous heads of delegations, on this occasion also with the head of the Soviet delegation, Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov. The meeting with Ambassador Vorontsov was arranged through the head of the American delegation at the Belgrade Conference, Ambassador Arthur Goldberg.

Numerous WJC affiliates participated in the European Conference on Soviet Jewry, held in Paris on January 22nd-23rd, 1978, under the joint auspices of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Representative Council of the Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF). The Congress' European Branch took an active part in these deliberations and its European Director reported on the Belgrade Conference.

In 1978, the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the research arm of the WJC, published Soviet Anti-Semitic Propaganda, a 150-page book presenting examples of Soviet anti-Semitic utterances through 121 quotations and 15 cartoons from 47 press organs as well as from Soviet books and broadcasts.

The WJC continued to be represented at the meetings of the Presidium and Steering Committee of the Brussels Conference in March 1978 in Jerusalem and in London in September 1978.

The London meeting noted with satisfaction the marked increase in the number of Soviet Jews permitted to join their families outside the USSR, but considerable concern was expressed on the continued denial of exit permits to the refuseniks. Great alarm was also voiced over the increase of anti-Semitic propaganda originating in the Soviet Union and the effects of the anti-Jewish campaign on university admissions, discrimination in employment, and virtually every other aspect of Soviet life.

In preparation for the Madrid Review of the Helsinki Final Act, the WJC European Branch, meeting in Brussels in September 1978, decided on the establishment of special committees in the Western European countries on the Helsinki Final Act. The first to implement this project was the Swiss Jewish community.

WJC representatives closely monitored the 1978 sessions of the UN Human Rights Committee established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee examined the reports of a number of countries, including those of the USSR and the Byelorussian SSR, on their implementation of human rights provisions of the Covenant. The WJC maintained good contact and close cooperation with Committee members in furtherance of the Committee's valuable work.

At the North American Branch meeting of May 1979, discussions on East-West relations were held with Dr. Marshal Shulman, Special Advisor to President Carter on Soviet Affairs. The issue of Soviet Jewry and its bearing on American foreign policy figured prominently in the discussions. In the spring of the same year, the Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress appeared before the Canadian Parliamentary Helsinki Committee, where he dealt with the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act as it touched on Soviet Jewry.

At its November 1979 meeting in Chicago, the WJC Executive considered the problem of Soviet Jewry, with particular reference to the question of noshrim. It recommended that efforts be intensified to achieve greater Jewish cultural activity in the USSR, in accordance with the Declaration of the Second Brussels Conference.

On November 28th, 1979 the WJC European Branch submitted to the Council of Europe's Committee on European Non-Member Countries a memorandum, prepared by the IJA, in connection with an imminent meeting of the Committee, dealing with the issue of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. The WJC paper treated primarily the position of the Jews in the USSR, contrasting the religious guarantees contained in the Soviet Constitution and international agreements subscribed to by the USSR, on the one hand, with the discriminatory treatment accorded in particular to the Jewish religion and Soviet Jews, on the other.

The Helsinki Monitoring Committee of the Brussels Conference, chaired by Dr. Roth, met on November 16th, 1979 in Montreal to discuss preparations for the Helsinki follow-up conference planned for Madrid in November 1980. The Director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs was again invited to edit the Brussels Conference report to be submitted in Madrid.

A delegation of the Board of Deputies met in December 1979 the British Foreign Minister, Lord Carrington, and discussed with him the Madrid review of the Helsinki Final Act, with particular reference to Soviet Jewry.

The meeting in Paris in April 1980 of the Presidium of the Brussels Conference considered the recent downward trend in emigration from the USSR, the attitude to be adopted by Jewish communities toward the Moscow Olympics, the question of dropouts, and the forthcoming Madrid follow-up conference on the Helsinki agreement. There was consensus that Jewish communities should not support the boycott movement against the Moscow Olympics.

At its most recent meeting, in July 1980, the WJC Executive expressed confident expectation towards the scheduled CSCE Madrid Conference. The Executive added:

As an organization representing Jewish communities in most of the 35 signatories of the Final Act, the WJC particularly hopes that human rights, international cooperation, free movement, the development of minority cultures, and unhindered cultural and religious exchanges will be facilitated by the Madrid follow-up conference and that they will, in particular, be afforded also to the large Jewish community in the USSR, for whom many of these facilities are severely curtailed at present.

As in the case of the Belgrade Review Conference, background material was prepared and contacts were effected in connection with the Madrid review of the Helsinki Final Act which opened in November 1980, and WJC delegates and representatives of a number of its member organizations participated in representations to the government delegations participating in the Madrid Conference.

EASTERN EUROPE

In the last six years, the state of relations between East and West has had a checkered history. Nevertheless, the period has seen steady progress in the development of friendly contacts between the WJC and East European Jewish communities. The WJC has also endeavoured to maintain ongoing relations with East European governments and delegations of the WJC have repeatedly visited these countries.

While the federations of Jewish communities in Yugoslavia and Rumania have been active members of the Congress for many years, relations with other Eastern European communities were much more difficult. In recent years the Jewish communal bodies of Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Bulgaria have responded positively to invitations to send observers to meetings of the WJC and of its European Branch. However, an invitation extended by Dr. Goldmann to the leaders of the Moscow Choral Synagogue to meet him and his fellow officers with a view to discussing the possibility of establishing regular contact met with no response.

Significantly, the Central Board of Hungarian Jews, the representative organ of the Hungarian Jewish community, applied at the end of 1980 for full membership in the Congress.

Relations with the Rumanian governmental authorities and with the Federation of Jewish Communities in Rumania under the leadership of Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen, continued in a spirit of mutual understanding. In view of certain criticisms voiced at official Rumanian emigration policy and also of the stand taken by the Federation of Jewish Communities, the WJC Governing Board expressed in July 1975 its confidence in the leadership of the Federation and affirmed the principle of autonomy, and of non-interference in matters involving individual Jewish communities without prior consultation. The Board noted with appreciation that very large numbers of Jews had already been permitted to leave Rumania and expressed the hope that this humanitarian policy would be maintained by the Rumanian government.

The President of the WJC, accompanied by the Director of the International Affairs Department, visited Bucharest in October 1975 and December 1976 for consultations with President Ceausescu and with the Jewish leadership. In the course of the December visit, Dr. Goldmann addressed a meeting of representatives of Rumanian Jewry at the Choral Synagogue in Bucharest.

WJC executive officers maintained contacts with Rumanian diplomatic representatives in Paris, Washington, Geneva, and Tel-Aviv.

The WJC was among the bodies which manifested their sympathy both with the Rumanian people and the Jewish community at the tragic effects of the earthquake in March 1977. The WJC President sent messages to the Head of State and the Chief Rabbi of Rumania. The Congress donated 10,000 dollars to the Rumanian general relief fund and called on Jewish communities and organizations to contribute to the fund. In response to this appeal, many Jewish communities -- among them some very limited in size and financial resources, such as the communities of Greece, Sweden, and Barbados -- contributed to the fund for the alleviation of the situation created by the disaster in Rumania.

From January 12th to 15th, 1978, WJC President Philip M. Klutznick, accompanied by the Director of the Congress' International Affairs Department, visited Bucharest, where they were the guests of the Rumanian government. The WJC President was received by President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Mr. Klutznick also conferred with Chief Rabbi Dr. David Moses Rosen and other local Jewish leaders on Rumanian Jewish life and relations between the Rumanian community, world Jewry, and Israel. A special service was held in Mr. Klutznick's honour at Bucharest's Choral Synagogue, with an overflow attendance of more than 1500. Mr. Klutznick was also received by the American Ambassador in Rumania and attended the opening of the Bucharest Jewish Museum.

A WJC delegation led by the Secretary-General, represented the WJC at the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the assumption by Dr. David Moses Rosen of the chief rabbinate of Rumania, which took place in July 1978 in Bucharest and several provincial towns. There were delegations from all the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe except the Soviet Union, and also from a large number of Western communities. During its stay the WJC delegation was received for a special interview with Mr. Ion Rosianu, President of the Department of Cults of the Rumanian government.

In June 1980, high-ranking representatives of the Jewish, Muslim, Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant communities of Rumania met with the International Affairs Commission of the North American Branch.

The WJC equally maintained close contacts with the Hungarian Jewish community. A WJC delegation headed by its President, visited Budapest from December 4th to 8th, 1977, to attend the 100th anniversary celebrations of that city's rabbinical seminary, the only such institution in Eastern Europe. Dr. Goldmann addressed the solemn banquet held on this occasion, and was received by Hungarian President Pal Losonczi. The entire WJC delegation was also received by the Head of the State Office for Church Affairs, Mr. Imre Miklos. With them and with the leaders of the Hungarian Jewish community, the WJC representatives had extensive consultations on the situation of Hungarian Jewry. The Budapest celebrations were also attended by leaders of a number of Western Jewish communities and of all the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe, with whom the Congress delegates also had discussions.

From January 16th to 19th, the new WJC President, Mr. Philip Klutznick, accompanied by the Director of the International Affairs Department, visited Budapest, where they had lengthy discussions with Mr. Imre Heber, President of the Hungarian Jewish community, and with other community leaders. A concert of religious music was held in Mr. Klutznick's honour at the rabbinical seminary, as was a reception given by the Central Board of Hungarian Jews. The WJC visitors also took part in the commemoration of the 33rd anniversary of the liberation of the Budapest ghetto by the Soviet Army, and were received by the Head of the State Office for Church Affairs, Mr. Imre Miklos.

In October 1979, members of an interfaith delegation of religious leaders from Hungary met with the International Affairs Commission of the North American Branch during a visit to the United States.

In May 1980, leaders of the WJC in the US met with the President of the Hungarian State Office for Church Affairs, Mr. Imre Miklos, with whom they discussed matters of common concern, in particular the relations of the Jewish community of Hungary with world Jewry.

Mr. Imre Heber, President of the Hungarian Jewish community, was the guest of the American Section during a visit in New York in November 1980.

Both the WJC President and the Director of the International Affairs Department met repeatedly with diplomatic representatives of Yugoslavia. Dr. Goldmann raised with President Tito -- by correspondence and in the course of a meeting in Sarajevo in October 1975, in which Mr. Kaplan participated -- various issues of Jewish concern, especially the anti-Zionist campaign and Yugoslavia's attitude to Israel at the United Nations. During their stay in Yugoslavia, the WJC representatives conferred with top officials of the governments of Croatia and of Bosnia and Herzegovina and with Jewish communal leaders in Belgrade, Zagreb, and Sarajevo. The Director of the International Affairs Department visited Belgrade again in May 1976 for consultations with high Yugoslav officials.

On the death of Yugoslav President Tito in May 1980, the WJC cabled condolences to the President of the Collective Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In April 1978 a WJC delegation, led by the Founder President, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, represented the Congress at ceremonies in Poland to mark the dedication of the Jewish Memorial Pavilion at Auschwitz and the 35th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Dr. Goldmann spoke at the Auschwitz ceremony. The delegation of the WJC and the World Federation of Polish Jews were received by the Polish Head of State, Mr. Henryk Jablonski.

In response to a request from the World Federation of Polish Jews -- an international organization associated with the World Jewish Congress -- the WJC Secretary-General in November 1975 requested several member organizations to assist the Federation in its approaches to Polish diplomatic representatives in their respective countries, aimed at obtaining satisfaction of the demands of the Jews from Poland. In November 1976 the Governing Board adopted a resolution calling on the government of Poland to meet these demands. Deputations from associations of Polish Jews in Britain, France, and several other countries met in the early months of 1976 with Polish diplomatic representatives, who stated that their government recognized in principle the legal validity of these claims and wished to settle this matter.

The issue of Jewish claims on Poland was further discussed with the Polish authorities during a visit, in early 1978, by the Director of the WJC International Affairs Department to Warsaw.

Subsequently a Tripartite Commission on Jewish claims against Poland -- consisting of the WJC, the World Federation of Polish Jews, and the World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans, and Camp Inmates -- was set up under the chairmanship of the WJC President to consider the most appropriate and effective ways of presenting the Jewish claims to the Polish government. A number of meetings were held for this purpose and a detailed memorandum was prepared by the WJC legal adviser. Negotiations were to take place in the fall of 1980 in Warsaw but were postponed in the light of recent political events in the country.

The Secretary-General visited East Berlin in February 1979 and met with Dr. Peter Kirchner, President of the community of Greater Berlin, with whom he discussed the cultural needs of the community.

In January 1980, the leadership of the American Section held private talks on American policy towards Eastern Europe with the US Deputy Secretary of State for Soviet and European Affairs.

In the course of the WJC European Branch meeting in Paris in May 1980, a special meeting took place between high Congress officials and the representatives of the Eastern European communities attending as observers (from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, and Poland), during which cooperation with these communities was discussed, especially in the light of deteriorating East-West relations.

INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND PEACE

As stated in its Constitution, the World Jewish Congress strives to cooperate with all peoples on the basis of universal ideals of peace, freedom, and justice. In effecting policy and action, the pursuit of international understanding and cooperation has always been a basic concern of the WJC.

These fundamental sentiments were restated most recently at the July 1980 session of the WJC Executive, whose view of the world scene led it to express grave concern at the serious deterioration of international relations which it regarded as a dangerous development threatening peace and harmony in the world. In formal resolution, the Executive gave clear voice to the Jewish stake in achievement of a global relaxation of tension:

The disturbance of international understanding is of particular import to the Jewish people both in regard to the security of the State of Israel and the free cooperation among Jewish communities throughout the world.

The WJC therefore reaffirms its support for a policy of détente, which it regards as universal and indivisible and which must be achieved or maintained by the respect on the part of all states of their international obligations, each other's sovereignty, and the human rights of their citizens. It urges all states to solve the outstanding problems by negotiations and in a spirit of mutual accommodation.

The issue of disarmament is central to the goal of world peace. At its last Plenary Assembly, the WJC gave its unremitting support to the quest for universal peace and disarmament, in fidelity to our messianic ideal, and to secure the survival of civilized society. The WJC has given practical effect to its convictions, especially through participation in the work of the Special Committee of NGOs on Disarmament and in the active part it has played in efforts of international NGOs to further the cause of disarmament. On three occasions the WJC has joined with other international NGOs in support of resolutions dealing with the participation of children in military training, the importance of concluding the SALT II agreement, and the dissemination of information on the spreading arms race.

In March 1978, the Congress took part in the International NGO Conference on Disarmament, which was held in preparation for the UN General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament, being held in June. The WJC, together with likeminded NGOs, was concerned to ensure that a balanced statement was produced by the Conference. The Congress, in pressing for a fairly worded statement, joined in the call upon states at

the UN special session to work out a comprehensive programme leading to general and complete disarmament, which would extend peace and security to all humanity on a sound and durable basis. The WJC was subsequently represented at the General Assembly's Special Session.

In June 1980, the WJC again played a major role at the UN in the disarmament field. Calling for a summit meeting on disarmament of the world's leading religious leaders, WJC American Section Chairman, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, addressed an audience of more than 600 representatives of nongovernmental organizations from around the world at the "Arms Race and Human Race" Conference held at the United Nations. The international parley heard a remarkable call for unity on the part of spokesmen for the world's great religions. The WJC presented the Jewish perspective at the conference, which included representatives of the other great religions: Christianity (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox), Islam, Buddhism, Baha'i, Hindu.

The WJC has been invited in recent months to a number of international meetings in Europe in order to exchange views on the serious international situation following the Afghanistan crisis. The first meeting, at which 25 international organizations participated, was called by the World Council of Churches, the International Council of Women, the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and the World Veterans Federation, and took place in Geneva on March 8th and 9th, 1980. The WJC was the only Jewish organization represented, and took a lively part in the discussions. The WJC representatives expressed their deep concern at the deterioration of the international situation. There was consensus that the common goal of all efforts should be the resumption and pursuit of dialogue and negotiations in all aspects of international life. The meeting afforded the opportunity of having a number of personal talks with high-ranking Eastern European officials.

In the United States, questions of international peace and general East-West relations have been repeatedly addressed in talks the leadership of the American Section have held with governmental officials at the highest level. Among those with whom such discussions have been held were: President Jimmy Carter; Secretary of State Edmund Muskie; National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General David Jones; Defense Secretary Harold Brown; Special Advisor to the President on Soviet Affairs, Marshal Shulman; and Deputy Secretary of State for East European and Soviet Affairs, Robert Barry. Visiting Washington in May 1980, the Secretary-General -- accompanied by the Director of the WJC North American Branch -- met with senior officials of the US State Department dealing with arms control and disarmament, with whom he discussed the deterioration of East-West relations and the American position with regard to various European initiatives in the field of security and disarmament.

The WJC was the only Jewish organization invited to participate in the Fourth Post-Helsinki Consultation of the Conference of European Churches, which took place in El Escorial, near Madrid, in late May 1980. This meeting was notable for its composition, as it assembled, in addition to representatives of the CEC, member churches from Eastern and Western Europe, Canada, and the US, as well as delegates from other non-governmental organizations and from peace institutes. The WJC was represented by its Secretary-General, who took an active part in the discussions, both in plenary and commission sessions.

The Consultation had three main tasks: to seek new possibilities for confidence-building measures; to find suitable forms of cooperation between churches, peace research institutes, and nongovernmental organizations in the area of their responsibility and efforts for peace; and to specify ways and means whereby the churches and other organizations could help to create a favourable climate of public opinion for the preparations and work of the second Review of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which began in Madrid in November 1980.

During the Consultation, the conviction was expressed that the continued implementation of the Helsinki Final Act was vitally important for the future. The search for solutions to current problems was seen as a common challenge to all, despite differences in assessing the difficulties in the present international situation.

In November, 1980, the WJC attended a conference in Madrid convened by the World Federation of United Nations Associations on promoting the implementation of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Director of the IJA took an active part in the proceedings and submitted a paper on national minority cultures and their contribution to international cooperation.

THE THIRD WORLD

The palpable need for greater understanding between the Jewish people and the developing nations of the Third World has long been recognized by the WJC. In 1972, the WJC approved the establishment of a new programme of activities in this sphere. The Third World Office was transferred from London to New York in 1975 because of opportunities existing there for contacts with African and Asian missions at UN Headquarters and with important institutions engaged in cooperation with Third World countries.

The mapping out and development of the Third World programme in its vital initial stages was carried out by an Advisory Council chaired by Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman. The first major event organized by the Third World Office in New York was a dinner meeting on the New International Economic Order, held at the Princeton Club in New York in October 1976. The gathering was attended by UN Ambassadors from Third World countries and by persons playing an important role in political and academic life in the USA. The latter included two key personalities in the Administration of President Jimmy Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and UN Ambassador Andrew Young.

During 1977 and 1978 a series of meetings was held at the UN between small groups of personalities prominent in American Jewish life and top-level leaders of the Group of 77, the informal grouping of Third World countries. A WJC pamphlet on the New International Economic Order was shortly thereafter distributed among Third World Ambassadors at the UN and in Washington, at Unesco in Paris, and by WJC offices in other capitals.

In November 1979, a high-level meeting with American governmental officials on Africa took place. At the meeting, the leading members of the American executive and legislative branches on African relations held a private consultative session with leaders of the World Jewish Congress and invited guests at the WJC office in New York. The discussions centered on the policy options relating to the state of relationships and interests with the African continent. Some months earlier, an off-the-record luncheon was held at Mr. Edgar Bronfman's offices with the participation of several WJC leaders, the Tunisian and Ghanaian Ambassadors to the UN, and the UN Commissioner for Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

The International Affairs Commission of the WJC North American Branch has met with several prominent Third World Ambassadors at the UN. During the period under review, the Commission has held talks with the Ambassador of the Ivory Coast, the Egyptian Ambassador, and a ranking member of the Kenyan Parliament. At its meeting with the Ivory Coast Ambassador, the Commission received assurances from the Ambassador of his government's clear opposition to the "Zionism/racism" linkage. The Ivory Coast has continued in its repeated expression of opposition to the equation of Zionism with racism at the UN and other international forums.

There have also been a number of seminars and conferences in which prominent Third World personalities participated. In November 1977 a seminar entitled "The Search for Roots: The Jewish and African Experiences" was held at Columbia University. The programme included distinguished black scholars from the United States and from Third World countries. In April 1978 the WJC sponsored a seminar on "International Diasporas" which was held at New York's International House, a residence and gathering place for students from many countries, including the Third World. In November 1979 a conference on the "Adaption of Traditions to Modernity: Jewish and Third World Experiences" was held in Chicago under the joint auspices of the WJC and International House at the University of Chicago. The Liberian UN Ambassador was a featured speaker at this gathering.

A curricular course at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York on African-Jewish relations, co-sponsored by the WJC and the College's Departments of African and Judaic Studies and instituted in the spring semester of 1978, proved an outstanding success, with an enrolment of both Jews and Blacks. The lectures attracted members of other faculties and students who could not be enrolled because of the limited capacity of the classroom.

As part of its Third World programme, the WJC arranged and sponsored a two-month course in Judaism at the National University of Zaire. This pilot project was implemented by Mr. Armand Abecassis -- Professor of Jewish Languages and Civilization at the University of Neuchâtel and Assistant in Psychology at the University of Strasbourg -- who in December and January gave two courses and a seminar at the Lubumbashi campus of the University of Zaire, on the subjects of rabbinic methodology, biblical anthropology, and prophecy. His classes were a degree requirement in certain departments where there were final examinations and grades. During his stay in Zaire, Professor Abecassis also lectured at the Catholic Theological Faculty and the Protestant Theological Faculty in Kinshasa, gave public lectures, participated in a round-table symposium with Christians and Muslims, addressed the Rotary Club and the Lionesses, and attended social gatherings organized by his Zaire hosts and the local Jewish community. The courses were well received, and the Rector of the National University expressed the hope that the project would be repeated in Zaire.

Contact with Third World diplomats has been maintained also in Paris, particularly at Unesco by the WJC's International Affairs Department and the French Section. In London several initiatives were taken by WJC representatives to make personal contacts with African diplomats, between Jewish and African students at universities in Britain, and with immigrants from the Third World.

The WJC Secretariat-General has continued to maintain contact with Third World diplomats and representatives passing through Geneva on UN business. The WJC participated actively in the work of the NGO Committee on Development and also had useful exchanges with African churchmen attending meetings at the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, and other organizations.

CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

The WJC has, during the period under review, continued to give great attention to the maintenance and development of friendly relations with the representative bodies of the Christian churches. It is well known that the Congress was instrumental in establishing a united Jewish front in the field of interreligious relations through the creation of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), in which it cooperates with the Synagogue Council of America, the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith - Anti-Defamation League, and the Israel Jewish Council for Interreligious Consultations. The WJC Secretary-General serves as one of the two co-secretaries of IJCIC. Ongoing relations were established in the first place with the Vatican and with the World Council of Churches. In recent years these relations have been extended to the Orthodox Churches as well as to the Lutheran Churches and the Anglican Communion, with whose representatives special consultations have been held.

Relations with the Vatican are maintained through the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee, on which both the Roman Catholic Church and the world Jewish community are represented by an equal number of representatives. The Catholic members are appointed by the President of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism, with the approval of the Pope; the Jewish members represent the various organizations constituting IJCIC.

The Liaison Committee, which at each session usually discusses one major subject and at the same time provides an opportunity for an exchange of views and information on a number of topical questions of mutual concern, meets annually. A small Steering Committee prepares these annual encounters.

The International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee met in Jerusalem in 1976, in Venice in March 1977, in Madrid in April 1978, and in Regensburg in October 1979.

The Jerusalem meeting, which was memorable for its very location, was devoted mainly to a joint assessment of major developments in Catholic-Jewish relations since the publication of the Declaration on the Relations of the Church with Judaism (Nostra Aetate No. 4) by the Vatican Council in 1965. The Jewish participants recognized on this occasion the considerable improvement of Catholic-Jewish relations during the last decade. They defined at the same time the three areas which in our view presented major difficulties in our mutual relationship: 1) the Church's attitude to our common history; 2) the Church's attitude with regard to the Mission to the Jews; and 3) the Church's attitude with regard to the State of Israel. As a result of these discussions, it was agreed to examine further the major issues raised, beginning with a study of the concept of mission and witness and their implications for the Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

At the Venice meeting in 1977 a very important study document on this subject, prepared by Professor Tommaso Federici, Professor of Bible at the Pontifical Urbaniana University and at the Liturgical Institute of San Anselmo in Rome, was presented. It stated, *inter alia*, that the Roman Catholic Church feels closely connected to the task of the Jewish people in the world, and that the Church's mission clearly precludes proselytism. "This means the exclusion of any sort of witness and preaching which in any way constitutes a physical, moral, psychological, and cultural restraint on the Jews, both individuals and communities, such as might in any way destroy or even simply reduce their personal judgement, free will, and full autonomy of decision at the personal or community level." The paper went on to state that "attempts to set up organizations of any sort, particularly educational or welfare organizations for the conversion of Jews, must be rejected ... Also excluded is every sort of judgement expressive of discrimination, contempt, or restriction against the Jewish people as such, and against individual Jews as such". In conclusion, Professor Federici affirmed the deep historical ties between Judaism as living tradition and the life of the Church.

The Jewish participants welcomed the Catholic presentation as a significant development in the Catholic Church that was bound to contribute to a deeper understanding between the two faiths.

While the paper presented by Professor Federici does not, at this stage, represent an official expression of the views of the Vatican, the prestige of the Catholic delegation, the occasion upon which the paper was delivered, the fact that the joint press release of the Liaison Committee was distributed by the official press office of the Vatican and that the paper was published in several important Catholic reviews -- all lend this paper's views far-reaching significance.

The meeting of the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee in Spain in April 1978 was of great symbolic significance. To commemorate the pre-expulsion Jewish presence in Spain, the first session took place in Toledo's historic El Transito Synagogue, with the participation of the Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo, Don Marcelo Gonzalez Martin, Primate of Spain. The other sessions, which were held in the Jewish community centre in Madrid, ended with a *Kabalat Shabat* and a dinner hosted by the Madrid Jewish community. The Cardinal Archbishop of Madrid, Don Vincente Enrique y Tarancon, President of the Spanish Bishops' Conference, attended the synagogue service and spoke at the dinner. These unprecedented aspects of the meeting gave it a historic dimension which was particularly welcomed by the Spanish Jewish community.

The working sessions of the meeting were mainly devoted to a discussion on the image of Judaism in Christian education and the image of Christianity in Jewish education. As usual, an exchange of information took place on a number of topical issues of mutual concern.

Of similar symbolic significance was the meeting of the small Steering Committee that was held in Trento in April 1979 to discuss preparations for the next session of the International Liaison Committee, to be held in Regensburg in October 1979. Trento had been chosen as meeting place at the insistence of the Catholic side, which took the occasion to call worldwide attention to the decision of the Church to give the lie to the ritual murder accusation against the Jews by de-beatifying Simonino di Trento and officially suppressing his cult -- a decision which had been the first practical application of the statement on the Jews issued by the Second Vatican Council. It was in this conciliatory and friendly spirit that the Jewish representatives were received by the Archbishop of Trento -- who had himself played a prominent role in this action --, the Mayor of Trento, and other leading personalities of the province and the city.

The annual meeting of the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee took place in Regensburg in October 1979 and drew its importance partly from the fact that it was the first meeting of its kind to be held in Germany -- a fact which was underlined by a telegramme from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany to the conference. The two main subjects of the meeting were "religious freedom" and "education for dialogue in a pluralistic society". Current trends in anti-Semitism were also discussed, and the Catholic side presented a detailed outline of Christian efforts to counter anti-Semitism in Germany and encourage Christian-Jewish dialogue. The meeting was followed by a joint visit to the former Flossenburg concentration camp, where prayers were said for the Jewish and non-Jewish victims who had died there.

Of even greater importance, however, was the audience granted by Pope John Paul II to a representative delegation of world Jewish leaders, led by the WJC President, Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, on March 12th, 1979. This was the first time that representatives of world Jewry met with a new Pope so early in his pontificate. The audience, which was characterized by a spirit of deep mutual respect and personal warmth, was arranged by the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews in collaboration with the International Jewish Committee for Inter-religious Consultations, following an initiative taken by the WJC.

In his statement, Mr. Klutznick, who acted as spokesman for the Jewish delegation, reviewed the progress made in the improvement of understanding and mutual respect between Catholics and Jews since Vatican Council II and stressed the importance of eradicating anti-Semitism and combating prejudice in all its forms. He also emphasized the fundamental importance of the link between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel in Jewish self-understanding. The Pope, in his reply, pledged himself to foster spiritual dialogue and to continue "to be of assistance to all who suffer or are oppressed in any way." He declared his intention to do everything in his power "for the peace of that Land which is holy for you as it is for us, with the hope that the City of Jerusalem

will be effectively guaranteed as a centre of harmony for the followers of the three great monotheistic religions." Finally, the Pontiff personally underlined and affirmed the principles of the 1975 Vatican Guidelines, including the injunction for Christians to "strive to learn by what essential traits the Jews define themselves in the light of their own religious experience."

It is also important to note the statements Pope John Paul II made on his visit to Auschwitz in 1979 and on his recent visit to the Federal Republic of Germany on the sufferings of the Jews and the theological misconceptions concerning the Jews which were in part responsible for the persecutions.

Daily contact with the Vatican authorities is assured by our permanent representative in Rome, Mr. Fritz Becker, who on numerous occasions intervened on matters of Jewish concern. Such representations were made notably after the adoption of the United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism; after the anti-Israel statement by the Catholic-Muslim dialogue in Tripoli in February 1976 (which led to its disavowal by the Vatican); in connection with the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union and in Iran; and with regard to the Vatican position at several international conferences. WJC representatives also repeatedly had occasion to discuss with high officials of the Vatican possible cooperation in the field of the protection of human rights, particularly religious freedom, and to seek clarification on the Vatican's attitude with regard to Middle East problems, its position concerning Jerusalem, and the political activities of Bishop Hilarion Capucci.

On the regional level the Latin American Jewish Congress continued to organize jointly with the Ecumenical Department of the Latin American Bishops' Conference (CELAM) regional consultations which took place in Sao Paulo (1975), Bogotá(1976), and San José (1977). The Latin American Jewish Congress was invited to send an observer to the Third General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate which took place in Puebla (Mexico) in January-February 1979. This was the first time that such an invitation had been extended and the LAJC was the only Jewish organization to receive it. Dr. Paúl Warszawski, who represented the Congress on that occasion, was given full facilities to participate in and address the Conference's plenum and commissions.

The relations with the World Council of Churches are maintained within a similar framework as those with the Roman Catholic Church. A Liaison and Planning Committee generally meets once or twice a year. It offers an occasion for exchanges of views on matters of common concern and serves at the same time as a forum for the consideration of long-range plans and for the preparation of the larger consultations that take place from time to time.

The Liaison and Planning Committee met in Geneva in March and October 1975; in Jerusalem in February 1976; and again in Geneva in October 1976, August 1977, and February 1979; in New York in November 1979; in Toronto in September 1980; and in Geneva in December 1980. In addition, a small consultation on the subject "Christian and Jewish Traditions concerning Nature, Science, and Technology" was held in Zurich in February 1977, and a larger consultation on the subject of "Religion and the Crisis of Modernity" took place in September 1980 in Toronto.

The WJC was also involved in the organization, in March 1978, of a seminar devoted to the meaning of Christian and Jewish traditions for the two groups living together, which took place at the WCC Ecumenical Institute near Geneva, in which the Jewish participants included a sizable number of students from Jews College in London, the Montreux Yeshiva, and Rome's Collegio Rabbinico.

In addition, after consulting with IJCIC, the WCC invited Rabbi Arnold Wolf, Jewish chaplain at Yale, to attend its Fifth Assembly in Nairobi, from November 23rd to December 10th, 1975, in a personal capacity.

The relations with the WCC are not without difficulties. While there is a definite policy on the part of the WCC to continue and develop consultations with representatives of world Jewry as part of their programme on "Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies", tensions exist within the WCC which do not always make these exchanges easy. The participation of the Middle Eastern Churches -- hostile to Israel -- in the WCC, the large representation of Eastern European Churches -- to a considerable extent under the influence of their own governments -- and the very strong influence of the Churches of the Third World, leave their mark on the WCC's policies and on its political options.

We have raised a number of problems of particular concern to us with the representatives of the WCC, including the problem of human rights in various areas of the world, the situation in Lebanon, and the anti-Israel and anti-Zionist resolutions adopted by the UN and other international agencies. It should be acknowledged that the WCC General Secretary in October 1975 issued a forceful statement repudiating the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The Jewish representatives, however, raised a strong protest with the General Secretary of the WCC concerning the statement on Jerusalem adopted by the WCC Central Committee in August 1980. The Jewish delegation at the Toronto meeting underlined the partisan and flagrantly political character of the WCC statement and deplored the double standard which WCC organs apply in matters affecting the Middle East. The Christian participants at the meeting offered their services to make the Jewish statement known as widely as possible and to seek further ways by which the voice of the Jewish community can be heard within the WCC on matters of major concern to it. This problem was further discussed at the meeting of the Liaison and Planning Committee in December in Geneva.

In the meetings with the WCC, the suggestion was made that it might be useful if the WCC issued guidelines on Christian-Jewish relations, as the Vatican did in 1974. The idea has been retained and is actively being pursued by the "Consultation on the Church and the Jewish People" of the WCC. Several drafts have been made available to the Jewish participants, who had full opportunity to comment on them.

In the discussions with the WCC we have also learned to realize that it is extremely difficult to discuss our mutual relationship with a body that comprises nearly 300 independent Churches and represents a great variety of denominations -- Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and Pentecostal. The idea has therefore arisen that, parallel to the relations with the WCC, direct relations should be developed with some of the major "confessional bodies" which, while belonging to the WCC, are also organized in their own confessional framework.

In this regard, it was considered of greatest importance to initiate relations with the Orthodox Churches. Preliminary approaches were made to Mgr. Damaskinos Papandreou, Metropolitan of Tranoupolis, the representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in Geneva and secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Panorthodox Council. These preliminary steps led to a first informal meeting in October 1976 between Mgr. Damaskinos and some of his colleagues and representatives of IJCIC.

In November 1976 the first Panorthodox Preconciliar Conference expressed the desire to cooperate and have relations with other non-Christian faith communities, and in March 1977 a first Christian Orthodox-Jewish encounter, of an academic character, was held under the auspices of the Theological Faculty in Lucerne. The Lucerne meeting, which was the first really international encounter of this character, was devoted to a discussion on "The Law in the Jewish and Christian Orthodox Tradition". It was agreed to continue this initiative and the proceedings of the encounter were published in "The Greek Orthodox Theological Review" in 1979.

The second academic consultation between theologians of the Orthodox Churches and representatives of IJCIC was held in Bucharest in October 1979 under the auspices of the Patriarch of the Rumanian Orthodox Church and the Chief Rabbi of Rumania. The theme of the consultation was "Tradition and Community in Judaism and in the Orthodox Church". The Orthodox participants were from Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, France, and Switzerland. The consultation also afforded an opportunity to present to the participants a survey of the situation of the Jews in the world.

Contacts were also established with the Lutheran World Federation, and in February 1979 a first international consultation took place in Berlin between representatives of IJCIC and the Lutheran European Commission on the Church and the Jewish People (LEKKJ). Some 30 representatives from over

15 countries participated. Observers were also present from the National Council of the Churches of Christ and the Lutheran Council in the United States. The participants shared information on areas of common concern and established a joint committee to explore future collaboration. The joint committee has met on several occasions and is preparing a larger Lutheran-Jewish consultation for the summer of 1981, under the auspices of the Lutheran World Federation and IJCIC.

Finally, an Anglican-Jewish consultation was jointly organized by IJCIC and the Consultants to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on Interfaith Relations, in Andover, in November 1980. The consultation, which was held under the joint chairmanship of the Archbishop of York and Chief Rabbi Jakobovits, was the first of its kind and had as its major theme "Law and Religion in Contemporary Society". There was agreement that this first Anglican-Jewish consultation had been successful and that regular consultations should be held in the future. A small ongoing committee has been established to this effect.

In all these endeavours to establish ongoing relations with the major confessional bodies, the late Michael J. Klein of the General Secretariat in Geneva played a major role.

The WJC was also involved in a number of other activities in the service of an amelioration of Christian-Jewish relations. It was regularly represented at the meetings of the International Council of Christians and Jews. It supported the annual Spanish-Israeli encounters organized by the Madrid Centre for Judeo-Christian Studies and the Israel Interfaith Committee. It has taken an active interest in a number of projects concerning the teaching of Judaism to Christian theology students. It has secured the necessary funds for a Jewish guest professorship at one of the Catholic theological faculties in Europe, and it repeatedly contributed to the financing of half-year courses at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for students from Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute.

The Institute of Jewish Affairs continued to publish Christian Attitudes on Jews and Judaism, which since 1979 appears in an expanded size under the title of Christian Jewish Relations.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN DISTRESS

Iran

The central representative body of Iranian Jewry, the "Andjoman Kalimian", as a WJC member community, has long taken part in Congress activities. The whirlwind of events in Iran during the latter part of the 70s and their possible repercussions on the Jewish community living there have been a cause of great concern and the subject of a great deal of WJC activity during the period under review. The WJC has tried to act in a discreet manner and in a way that would neither exaggerate nor exacerbate the situation of the Iranian Jewish community, at the same time keeping potential developments and dangers in mind.

The Congress has kept in touch with Iranian Jewish leaders and with other Jewish public bodies and organizations. With a view toward impressing on the Iranian authorities the importance of ensuring the safety and rights of the Jewish community, it has made discreet approaches to political personalities and bodies on the international and national levels. Either directly or through its member communities, the WJC has also approached certain governments in this regard.

In September 1978, on his way from Australia to Israel, the WJC President effected a stopover of several hours in Tehran, where he was briefed on developments in Iran by informed individuals.

In November 1978, the Director of the WJC International Affairs Department, visited Tehran, to obtain a first-hand view of the situation of the Jewish community. During the course of his visit he met with leaders of the Jewish community as well as with the Ambassadors of various countries.

In New York, Jerusalem, and Paris, the WJC participated regularly, together with other important Jewish organizations, in coordinated efforts to gather reliable information and in discussions on what action could be undertaken on behalf of the Jewish community of Iran. Member communities and the offices of the WJC brought the situation of Iranian Jewry to the attention of international bodies and governments throughout the world, notably in Washington, Paris, London, Geneva, Ottawa, and Rome.

On May 9th, 1979, the WJC learned of the execution in Tehran of Habib Elghanayan, Honorary President of the Jewish community of Iran and a prominent figure in Iranian Jewry, following a summary trial in which he was accused of Zionism and subversive activities on behalf of Israel. A statement issued the same day by the President of the WJC, noted that Mr. Elghanayan had not been given any of the opportunities for defence required by international law and basic principles of justice, and expressed horror "at this latest in a series of travesties of justice which world public opinion has condemned unreservedly in the name of morality and fundamental human rights and freedoms."

At its meeting in Copenhagen in May 1979, the European Branch of the WJC issued a public protest against the execution of Mr. Elghanayan. It urged the immediate cessation of the summary trials and executions in Iran, called for respect for human rights and rights of minorities in that country, and appealed to governments, political and religious leaders throughout the world, as well as international organizations, to make every possible effort to prevail upon the Iranian authorities to discontinue these persecutions and executions..

In February 1980, Rabbi Hirshel Jaffe, who was a member of a delegation to Iran at the beginning of the month, addressed a meeting arranged by the WJC American Section. Rabbi Jaffe, who was briefed by the WJC before his departure, is the only American rabbi to have met with the American hostages at the US Embassy in Tehran. He said that in addition to his wish to be of service in securing the release of the hostages, he was motivated in undertaking the journey to Iran to do whatever he could for the Jewish community of that country.

In April 1980, upon learning of the death sentence handed down in Iran in the case of Albert Danielpour -- among other charges, accused of being a "Jew Zionist" and an American spy -- the WJC immediately contacted member communities, asking them to contact their respective governments with a view toward obtaining a suspension or commutation of the sentence. Such interventions were undertaken with appropriate governmental authorities in Austria, Belgium, Federal Germany, France, Italy, Rumania, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Yugoslavia. In addition, WJC offices made approaches to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Vatican, Amnesty International, Iranian officials at the UN, and a number of personalities enjoying friendly relations with the Iranian regime. Despite assurances to the contrary given by high Iranian authorities and conveyed to several foreign diplomatic representatives, the death sentence was carried out. On learning of the execution, the Acting President, on behalf of the WJC, issued a statement decrying it as "a cruel and ominous disregard of civilized standards of justice and decency", reflecting "contempt for international opinion and the dictates of ordinary humanity." The WJC continues to monitor the Iranian situation closely and is actively working on various fronts on behalf of Iranian Jews, both collectively and individually.

Syria

Since the last Plenary Assembly, the number of Jews living in Arab countries in the Middle East has continued to dwindle. The plight of the approximately 4000 Jews of Syria still not allowed to emigrate from that country, and whose rights within the country remain curtailed, gives rise to continuing concern. The WJC has endeavoured through all appropriate channels to alleviate the difficulties of the Jewish community of Syria. The WJC has repeatedly called on member communities to make use of the good offices of their respective governments in this regard. Thus, in March 1979, replying to a communication from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the British Foreign Office assured the Board that the

UK government was following the situation of Syrian Jewry and was seeking a way in which it could most effectively help in obtaining the lifting of the remaining restrictions on Jews in that country. Similar representations were made in other capitals.

At the 1979 session of the Human Rights Committee established by the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the WJC representative provided background for action to Committee members, relevant to the plight of Syrian Jewry, in connection with examination of Syrian compliance with the provisions of the Covenant. Subsequently, the condition of the Syrian Jewish community was forcefully raised in the Committee's deliberations.

Ethiopia

In view of conflicting reports about the situation of the Falashas in Ethiopia -- received through the press and Jewish organizations for aid to the Falashas -- the WJC consulted on this matter with the WZO, ORT, and the JDC. First-hand information was also obtained, through WJC member communities, from diplomatic representatives stationed in Ethiopia.

The WJC in Israel and New York had a series of contacts with representatives of the organization of Falashas in Israel.

During the period under review, the WJC French Section assisted the newly established French Committee for the Rescue of the Jews of Ethiopia. The Committee's aim is to inform French Jewry of the plight of the Falashas and to mobilize whatever help can be extended. The information campaign has borne fruit and Jewish publications have widely reported the problem of the Falashas and drawn attention to the danger in which they live.

The Falasha situation remains under close WJC scrutiny.

WJC ACTION ON THE ARAB BOYCOTT

Following meetings of the Executive in the course of 1975, it was decided that the then Chairman of the WJC North American Branch, Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman, would chair a WJC committee, which would initiate and direct anti-boycott measures and coordinate activities of national affiliates in this domain. The Executive approved a detailed work plan, including collection and distribution of information, assisting communities for action in their respective countries, and liaison with the Israel authorities.

Following issuance of a study of the consequences of Arab boycott practices commissioned by the WJC, outlining possible measures which could be initiated against the Arab boycott, the Governing Board, meeting in Paris in February 1976, requested WJC affiliates to urge their respective governments to enforce international agreements (such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the Treaty of Rome of 1957 constituting the European Economic Community) which guarantee amongst their respective parties the principle of non-discrimination in international trade and reject restrictive trade practices. It further called for respect for national anti-discrimination laws and urged that the Arab boycott should not be facilitated by the issuance of negative certificates of origin which should be barred, together with other unlawful tertiary boycott practices against persons and companies appearing on boycott lists issued by the Boycott Office of the Arab League.

During the course of the last 5 years, the American Jewish Congress, together with other Jewish organizations in the United States, notably the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee, has been active in recommending anti-boycott legislation, culminating in amendments to the Export Administration Act of 1977 and the Tax Reform Act of 1976. The tax measures consequently introduced in the Internal Revenue Code constituted a severe deterrent to boycott participation and the 1977 amendments to the Export Administration Act, particularly its Title II, authorized the issuance of regulations prohibiting discriminatory action by any US person with the intention of supporting the Arab League boycott against Israel. These measures, together with the provisions of US anti-trust law, were considered to have a considerable restrictive effect on participation by US persons in the Arab boycott campaign.

In the field of anti-boycott action in Europe, the WJC European Branch, through its special sub-committee on the Arab boycott, decided on a concrete plan of campaign. With the help of research conducted by the WJC legal adviser, and the IJA, a series of political and legal approaches were recommended to the Jewish communities of Western Europe. In particular, the WJC European Branch Boycott Committee cooperated with national communities, such as the Anti-Boycott Co-Ordinating Committee in Great Britain, the Mouvement pour la Liberté du Commerce in France, and the CIDI (Committee for Information and Documentation on Israel) in the Netherlands.

The WJC in particular made a series of recommendations to the EEC Commission in Brussels, urging effective anti-boycott measures in three primary areas, namely, ensuring recognition of the non-discriminatory clauses in the agreements signed with the Arab states of the Maghreb and the Mashreq; the applicability of the competition rules contained in the EEC Treaty to cases of secondary and tertiary boycott; and the resort to other provisions of the Treaty of Rome enabling harmonization of laws of EEC member states in the field of restrictive trade or boycott practices, particularly those of a tertiary character.

Following effective campaigning by the Mouvement pour la Liberté du Commerce (MLC), an effective French anti-boycott law was adopted on 7th June 1977. However, by a special decree adopted one month later, on 24th July 1977, the French government sought to nullify the effect of the anti-boycott law. The MLC, together with other interested organizations, succeeded in obtaining from the Conseil d'Etat the annulment of this decree in April 1980, but the French government issued a new directive on May 9th, 1980, attempting to limit once again the application of the 1977 boycott law. The MLC has once more challenged the validity of the new decree before the Conseil d'Etat, and other concrete cases of violation of the anti-boycott law will be contested before the courts whenever the opportunity arises.

In the UK, an earlier attempt to introduce a private member's bill against boycott practice in the House of Lords did not meet with success, but enabled the ABC Committee to take part in an effective public campaign exposing the stultifying effect of boycott practices on international commerce, adversely affecting UK trade.

While the WJC continued to extend support to anti-boycott campaigns, both in North America and in Europe, and has, whenever new developments have arisen relating to its activity, provided material for inclusion in the invaluable boycott report issued by the American Jewish Congress, it has had to take into account new factors whose effect on the Arab boycott campaign have yet to be ascertained. After the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty of March 1979, the parties agreed to remove all discriminatory barriers to normal economic relations and to end economic boycotts of each other after completion of the interim withdrawal phase by Israel from Sinai. It will be recalled that the 18 Arab states of rejection, meeting in Baghdad immediately following the conclusion of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty, decided to extend the boycott of Israel to Egypt. While this was first feared to have grave effects on the Egyptian economy, the result of the extension of the Arab boycott had in fact proved to be of less consequence. It is estimated on the one hand that the expansion of normal economic relations between Egypt and Israel will render the Arab boycott of Israel meaningless. On the other hand, various Arab states have tightened their boycott regulations against Israel. Following the change of regime in Iran, the recent outbreak of conflict between Iraq and Iran and the crisis between Jordan and Syria, the position with regard to the alignment of the Arab states against Israel has modified, with possible implications for the coherent application of the Arab boycott campaign against Israel. This situation must be carefully watched in order to ascertain the need for continuing anti-boycott measures which, for the time being, continue to be of relevance.

TERRORISM

The fight against the scourge of international terrorism is of profound concern to the WJC. In the period under review, international efforts aimed at curbing terrorist activities have met with uneven success.

At the United Nations, one progressive development -- one in which the WJC was involved -- was the adoption by consensus at the 34th General Assembly session (1979) of the long-awaited International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages. The item was first placed on the Assembly agenda in 1976.

The Convention, though generally positive in character, contained certain controversial elements in the provisions relating to prosecution and extradition of terrorists. Specifically, concerns were raised as to whether Article 12 of the Convention provided a "loophole" in some circumstances for national liberation groups. Before the text's adoption in the Assembly, Israel had made clear its reservations on these matters.

Prior to the opening of the Assembly, the World Jewish Congress had consulted with members of the Advisory International Law Panel of the IJA on these matters. In carefully examining the relevant UN agenda items, the distinguished panel of international jurists helped define the position the WJC took in the course of the General Assembly's consideration of the terrorism-related items. The WJC UN Office made representations on these issues to both governmental delegations at the UN and at the American State Department in Washington.

As a result of these efforts, the WJC received a written communication from the Director of the State Department's office for combating terrorism, in which he states: "We entirely agree with the view of the World Jewish Congress that the Hostages Convention should not provide an exemption for members of national liberation movements or anyone else." The letter goes on to state "that in our opinion Article 12 provides no such exemption and thus does not constitute a loophole in the coverage of the Convention." The three-page letter continues by giving a detailed juridical interpretation of the Article and concludes that the Convention "obligates States, without exception, to prosecute or extradite persons who commit offenses under the terms of a Convention."

In contrast to the Hostages Convention, however, was the final disposition of the report of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism. The item on terrorism had been added to the Assembly agenda following the murder of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. The Ad Hoc Committee was established at the time by a resolution that did not address the need for effective action

against terrorism but rather emphasized the need to examine the underlying causes of terrorism and which reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle against racist or alien regimes. Subsequent reports of the Ad Hoc Committee were in a similar vein. Consequently, the work of the Committee was largely discounted by many delegations.

As was anticipated, the resolution on terrorism that ultimately emerged at the 34th Assembly session was tendentious in form and did not actually deal with the problem. Though it condemned acts of terrorism, it repeatedly referred to elimination of the "causes underlying terrorism" and to situations "that may give rise to international terrorism", including those involving alien occupation. Moreover, the text condemns the terrorism of regimes in denying peoples their right to self-determination. Because of the resolution's glaring negative elements, Western states were unable to vote for it.

More gratifying was the adoption in 1976 of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. Here, too, timely WJC representations were initiated in the period leading to the elaboration of this important instrument.

The Convention, open to members of the Council of Europe, is especially significant in that it aims at facilitating the extradition and prosecution of terrorists even though their action may have been politically motivated and thus normally excluded from existing extradition agreements. Specifically, the Convention provides that for purposes of extradition, a long list of terrorist actions including offenses within the scope of the Montreal and Hague Conventions, are not to be considered politically motivated.

In the period under review, the WJC found it necessary on more than one occasion, to protest the lack of strong international action against terrorism. The infamous hijacking to Entebbe of an Air France plane in June 1976, placed in particular jeopardy the lives of the Jewish passengers. The WJC immediately urged international organizations, the Vatican, and the World Council of Churches, to intervene on behalf of the hostages. The Congress also called for the punishment of the hijackers and their accomplices and reiterated the demand for the adoption of measures designed to forestall such criminal acts in the future. The courageous and masterly rescue of the hostages by Israeli forces was hailed by broad sections of public opinion in many countries.

The speedy release by the French authorities of the notorious Palestine terrorist Abu Daoud, who had played a prominent part in the murderous attack on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, caused a worldwide uproar of indignation, particularly among Jewish communities. In a statement issued in Paris on January 12th, 1977,

the World Jewish Congress strongly protested this scandalous decision as a defiance of justice and morality and an encouragement of terrorism. The views and feelings of world Jewry were conveyed in no uncertain terms to the Director of the Cabinet at the French Foreign Office by the Director of the WJC International Affairs Department in the course of an extensive exchange of opinions. A wave of protests denouncing the action of the French government ensued, which included statements by many WJC affiliates in Europe, the Americas, and Australia.

PROSECUTION OF NAZI CRIMINALS

Since the last Plenary Assembly, the War Criminals Research Office, attached to the WJC New York, has continued its activities in the search for witnesses wanted for trials against persons to be arraigned for Nazi crimes. The work of this office has been going on without interruption since the Nuremberg trials in Germany.

By close cooperation with American, German, and Austrian authorities, the prosecution of numerous Nazi criminals has been greatly facilitated. During the past year alone, West German courts were assisted in locating witnesses among the survivors of the Holocaust for trials taking place in the cities of Hamburg, Hanover, Munich, Bochum, Limburg, Aschaffenburg, and Stade/Elbe.

In October 1976, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service decided to take steps against alleged Nazi collaborators living in the US. Consequently, the WJC has received numerous requests by the Office of Special Investigations of the US Department of Justice in connection with the location of witnesses and documentation relating to investigations and court proceedings against such collaborators. Assistance was rendered in the case against the former Rumanian Archbishop Valerian Trifa, as well as in those against several Lithuanian, Latvian, Bulgarian, and other collaborators. Lists were furnished of witnesses from among the survivors of the notorious concentration camps in Sobibor, Treblinka, and others.

A case involving the former concentration camp in Tartu, now Soviet Estonia, is particularly notable. In this instance, the WJC was able to supply the US Department of Justice with the copy of the court procedure in Soviet Estonia, where one of the collaborators, now under investigation in America, was sentenced to death in absentia. On the basis of this document two American trial lawyers visited Estonia, where they were able to interrogate the witnesses. The three-week stay of the American officials was an unqualified success, according to the Justice Department.

Due to its extensive archives, the WJC is often approached by organizations, mass media, and researchers for information about pending investigations and trials.

The WJC has strongly maintained that no Nazi criminal should escape prosecution on account of an expiring statute of limitations. In April 1979, on the occasion of Holocaust Commemoration Day, the WJC President issued a statement urging on behalf of the WJC that in no country should it be possible for statutory limitations to prevent the prosecution of persons accused of Nazi crimes and that all countries should cooperate with each other in the tracing, apprehension, prosecution, and extradition of such perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Following the vote by the Federal German Bundestag to abolish the statute of limitation on murder, on July 4th, 1979, the President of the WJC -- which had played a prominent role in coordinating action and providing documentary material in this connection -- cabled the President of the Bundestag welcoming the decision. Copies of this message were sent to the four parties represented in the Bundestag, with the expression of appreciation to those of their members who had voted in favour of abolition.

The WJC is keenly sensitive to the increasingly lenient treatment accorded known war criminals. In December 1977, the Canadian Jewish Congress wrote to the Canadian Minister of Manpower and Immigration, expressing its dismay that Archbishop Valerian Trifa -- a prominent member of the Rumanian fascist Iron Guard suspected of major war crimes -- had been allowed to enter Canada. To the Minister's reply that Canadian immigration officials had been unable to establish conclusively that Trifa's admission to the country was prohibited under the Immigration Act and Regulations, the CJC suggested that he should be considered inadmissible in the light of proceedings initiated against him in the US and his wartime membership in the Iron Guard, a criminal organization responsible for mass murder of Jews and anti-Nazis.

In April 1979, the WJC condemned as a travesty of justice and an affront to the memory of victims of the Holocaust, the verdict acquitting three former women guards and a former camp doctor accused of murder and complicity in murder of Jews and other victims in Majdanek. The WJC statement declared that it was inconceivable that people who had undeniably participated for years in the running of an extermination camp did not cooperate in the mass killing of victims, and that the acquittal could only be explained by the unparalleled freedom which the Düsseldorf court gave to the defence counsels in harassing the witnesses, mostly old and broken survivors of Majdanek.

Later that year, the WJC American Section protested to the Brazilian Ambassador in Washington against the decision of the Brazilian Supreme Court to reject -- despite the efforts made by the Brazilian Jewish community -- requests from Federal Germany, Austria, Poland, and Israel for the extradition of Franz Wagner. Referring to the moral aspect of the case which could not be overlooked, the protest termed the court's decision as one "taken on narrow technical grounds, which are at best arguable." Similar protests were made by other WJC member communities and organizations.

INDEMNIFICATION FOR VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION

During the last six years, the Founder President of the WJC, in his capacity as President of the Conference on Material Claims against Germany, completed longstanding and difficult negotiations with the German Federal government concerning the establishment of a hardship fund for Nazi persecutees.

The Bundestag decided on 4th December 1979 to call for a commitment of DM. 440 million as "a final indemnification gesture". Of this amount, DM. 40 million were intended for the Central Council of Jews in Germany, to assist the Jewish community of Germany.

The Federal German government decided that a fund of up to DM. 400 million would be made available for the "alleviation of hardship in individual cases" and recommended in the spring of 1980 to the Bundestag the appropriation of the first DM. 50 million for this purpose. The Claims Conference is required to assume responsibility for its distribution in accordance with guidelines established by the competent Federal German authorities. Prior to its summer recess, in 1980, the Bundestag accordingly approved the appropriation of the first allocation of DM. 50 million. Eligibility would be confined to applicants who not only suffered considerable damage to health but also were considered to be in special need.

A detailed announcement was issued on 18th December 1980 for eligible applicants to this fund, which for the most part concerns cases of Nazi persecutees who arrived from Eastern Europe after 1965, were unable to file indemnification claims for damage to health, and have not previously received any indemnification payments from any source.

THE WJC AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

United Nations

The World Jewish Congress, in all facets of its work in the international community, has from the outset been guided by the principle that it cannot confine itself solely to questions of direct Jewish interest, but that it must also be involved in the major issues of our time in which the Jewish people share the preoccupations of mankind.

This attitude is a reflection of the awareness that the problems besetting the Jewish world cannot be solved in isolation, but must be tackled in the context of Jewish existence in the international community, with the corresponding global commitment which this implies.

The last 6 years have been a period of increasing difficulty for effective WJC action in world forums, principally in the United Nations system and in other intergovernmental bodies to which the WJC has access or where it has consultative status as a nongovernmental organization.

So far as the UN in particular is concerned, the attempt by the hostile alliance of states to push Israel into greater isolation through the adoption of annual ritualistic condemnatory resolutions by the automatic majority, has contributed to heightened tension and a disinclination of the international community to deal sympathetically with questions of Jewish interest.

The tendency noted in previous reporting periods has been confirmed, at any rate, since the 6th Plenary Assembly in 1975, of a greater radicalization and confrontation on issues dividing the arrayed power blocs of states. With the increase of member states from 130 in 1975 to 154 at present, the "Group of 77" as a cohesive bloc of Asian and African countries in fact representing over 100 member states on basic economic issues, has become a decisive factor in the struggle for votes of other groupings of states on issues of importance to them. Unfortunately, the Group of 77 has, all too often (see section on Israel and the Middle East) supported the Arab and Islamic bloc of states in the annual condemnation of Israel in the General Assembly.

As in the previous period under review, the proceedings at the annual sessions of the UN General Assembly have been attended by the WJC representative, whose reports have briefed the WJC organs, regional offices and affiliates at large on current issues of Jewish interest.

While the General Assembly is undoubtedly the major forum for ongoing contacts and representations on the widest scale, conducted against the background of the debates of specific Jewish and general concern, the WJC's formal consultative status is in fact with the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary commissions and bodies, to which the WJC has direct access, and international conferences to which the status extends. The WJC has, as required, submitted statements to these bodies, notably the Commission on Human Rights, on problems giving rise to concern. The economic, social, and humanitarian affairs, frequently inextricably tied with basic political considerations, are followed by the WJC representatives both in New York and Geneva.

Because of the nature of the matters on which the WJC is required to base its representations, the WJC has repeatedly been faced with a challenge to the renewal of its consultative status when the quadrennial re-examination is made by the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee of the Economic and Social Council. On the last occasion when this review took place, at the end of 1977, the WJC submitted an extensive report of its activities in relation to the aims, purposes, and programmes of the UN.

To forestall the increasing tendency of several governments, notably Arab, Eastern European and some Latin American states, directed especially against human rights organizations and Jewish NGOs, to censure their views and restrict their activities, under the threat of depriving them of their consultative status, the WJC, by direct approaches and through its national affiliates, contacted a number of governments represented on the ECOSOC/NGO Committee, and also others, to obtain their support for a liberal UN/NGO policy in favour of the free communication and expression of views by agencies such as the WJC. As a result of these representations by several NGOs, the final action of the ECOSOC/NGO Committee was characterized by moderation and the threats of past years were not repeated.

As part of its policy of maintaining interest in all major issues of general significance and of defending freedom of expression of NGOs at the UN, the WJC has taken an active role in the work of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is a member of special committees formed by the Conference, presently comprising some 190 members, in which information is shared and coordinated action taken when appropriate, notably in the fields of human rights, development, and disarmament. The WJC has frequently assumed a leading role in these coordinated NGO activities. Thus, at the invitation of the Board of the NGO Conference of June 1976, the WJC Secretary-General undertook to chair an NGO Working Group on the consultative relations between the NGOs and the UN, in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social

sectors of the UN. As a result of a series of meetings and consultations, the group prepared a memorandum which recommended the strengthening of consultative status at specific levels of the UN system. The memorandum was adopted by the Board of the NGO Conference and submitted to the UN Secretary-General, the members of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring, and the NGO Committee of the Economic and Social Council.

Similarly, as an example of the WJC collaboration with other NGOs in the humanitarian field, the WJC Secretary-General, during the second, third, and fourth sessions of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, which took place in Geneva in 1975, 1976, and 1977, continued to chair the Working Group of NGOs which, in June 1976, presented a supplementary memorandum to all delegations taking part in the Conference. The memorandum was signed by some 50 international nongovernmental organizations representing a very broad ideological, political, religious, and geographical spectrum.

The WJC was also asked in the summer of 1976, to provide its legal adviser as chairman of an NGO Working Group for the study of a draft Convention on Territorial Asylum, prepared by a group of governmental experts. The group elaborated a paper commenting on the draft and also proposed a new and modified version of the draft Convention. At the Diplomatic Conference on Territorial Asylum, which took place in Geneva from January 10th to February 4th, 1977, while no final text of the Convention was adopted, out of the 5 Articles approved by the Committee of the Whole of the Conference, several reflected proposals emanating directly from the Working Group's submissions which were taken up by a number of delegations.

Another example of the involvement of the WJC in wider international contexts in which the nongovernmental organizations frequently endeavour to coordinate their activities, is the attendance by the Secretary-General and subsequently the legal adviser of the WJC, at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. Similarly, an invitation to the WJC legal adviser to act as the rapporteur of a working group at an International Seminar on Torture and Human Rights, was extended by the Council of Europe in association with Amnesty International, for nongovernmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, which was held in Strasbourg in October 1977.

Further, the WJC Secretary-General participated in a World Forum of International Associations organized in Brussels in June 1980 by the Union of International Associations. He presided at a commission on the participation of associations in world order and international action, at which the consultative relations of NGOs with the UN and Specialized Agencies and regional organizations were reviewed.

As a result of the WJC's broad range of activities in collaboration with other NGOs, the WJC was reelected to the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with ECOSOC in 1976 and again in 1979, and the WJC's Secretary-General served during this whole period as one of its executive officers. In May 1980, the WJC representative at the UN Headquarters in New York was elected to the Executive Committee of NGOs working with the UN Department of Public Information. The 15 member NGO/DPI Executive Committee acts as the link with the UN Secretariat's DPI section and some 500 NGOs. Thus, the WJC became the only organization serving on the steering bodies charged with responsibility for the two broad categories of NGOs represented at the UN, namely those with formal consultative status with ECOSOC, and the wider group of NGOs having a relationship with the UN/DPI.

The WJC is therefore a respected member of the international NGO community and is thereby able to exercise effective influence in spite of the general trend towards isolation in which the Jewish world finds itself today.

Human Rights

Those familiar with the work of the WJC since its creation in 1936, will be aware of the importance the WJC attaches to the favourable evolution of human rights and fundamental freedoms which, like the rule of law itself, is basic to meaningful existence for any minority group in a democratic society.

As part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 1978, the office of the WJC Secretary-General in Geneva published a paper entitled "The World Jewish Congress and Human Rights", presented by Dr. Natan Lerner, the WJC Executive Director for Israel, at a seminar held in the Ralph Bunche Institute on the UN in New York at a ceremony marking this event, which extensively reviewed the WJC's contribution to this field of endeavour since its creation.

While there have been some encouraging developments during the last six years, notably the entry into effect in 1976 of the Covenants on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights, the overall respect for human rights has deteriorated in many regions of the world. Gross violations of human rights in certain Latin American, African, and Asian countries, while receiving a certain degree of international attention, have largely been overshadowed by concentration on concern for racial discrimination and colonialism as a priority matter considered by many Third World states as requiring more immediate consideration, with particular reference to Southern Africa.

The same process of the politicization of certain human rights issues has characterized the last six years, as was the case in the previous reporting period, but this has continued at an accelerated rate.

Reference has already been made in the section dealing with Israel and the Middle East, to the continuing process at each annual meeting of the UN General Assembly, in the Third Committee debates, and at the annual session of the UN Commission on Human Rights now meeting regularly in Geneva, where Israel is subjected to the annual ritual denunciation and condemnation by the automatic majority for alleged violation of human rights in the territories. This practice has also recently crept into the proceedings of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which, unlike the Commission on Human Rights, is a body which is not composed of government representatives but of experts from the various countries nominated in their individual capacities. This distinction would appear to have been more apparent than real in many instances.

At the 34th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, held during February and March of 1978, efforts were undertaken with the assistance of several NGOs, including the WJC, to break the arbitrary and selective practice of dealing only with the question of Israel-administered territories, South Africa, and Chile. It was the first occasion when the Commission made public reference to the fact that under the confidential procedure provided by ECOSOC resolution 1503(XLVIII), alleged violations of human rights in several other countries, in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, were under examination.

The WJC has concentrated on two issues in particular at recent sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights. At the 33rd session in 1977, and the 35th session in 1979, the WJC circulated official statements as documents of the Commission on the resurgence of anti-Semitism. In its 1977 statement, the WJC referred to widespread incidents recorded in at least five countries on various continents in the course of 1976, in which Jewish synagogues, schools, and cemeteries had been attacked and desecrated, in addition to cases of violence and bodily attacks against Jewish religious and communal leaders. It cited the fact that in one country alone, 15 synagogues and 8 Jewish cemeteries had been desecrated. The statement further drew attention to the reissue of such anti-Semitic books as the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and Mein Kampf, as well as to the numerous works published distorting the history of the Holocaust. The WJC referred to a new and disquieting source of anti-Semitism. It deplored the ceaseless international campaign of vilification and denigration seeking to delegitimize the status of the Jewish people, which was an undoubted cause for the regeneration of anti-Semitic sentiment. The Commission was urged by the WJC to be alert to the dangers of resurgence of anti-Semitism in all its forms.

In its 1979 statement to the UN Commission on Human Rights, the WJC renewed its warning of the dangers of the revival of anti-Semitism. While again pointing to the danger of the emergence of neo-Nazi movements in many countries, the WJC once again pointedly underlined that politically inspired anti-Semitism had been added to the more traditional forms of racial and ethnic discrimination. Referring to the notorious UN General Assembly resolution of November 1975, purporting to equate Zionism with racism, the WJC emphasized that this new expression of anti-Semitism was directed against the aspirations of Jewish national identity and the legitimate expression of its self-determination. The statement enquired why the right of self-determination was regarded as cardinal and sacrosanct for some groups, while at the same time it is portrayed as an expression of racism when exercised by the Jewish people. The statement underlined the fact that in the past, anti-Semitism was directed at delegitimization of the status of the Jew as an individual, while at present it was the delegitimization of the status of the Jewish collectivity which was the goal.

In the light of the recrudescence of anti-Semitism which has reached a new peak during the course of 1980, the WJC's statement to the UN Commission on Human Rights seems to have been more than justified.

The WJC has been actively concerned to encourage the preparation in the Human Rights Commission of a draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, whose elaboration has been delayed for many years. The WJC, together with other NGOs in consultative status, has joined in requesting that the completion and adoption of the draft Declaration be expedited. The General Assembly has, at its last two annual sessions, also given expression to this desire. The WJC submitted a paper at the 36th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights jointly with the International Council of Jewish Women, setting out the principles which in their view should be embodied in the Declaration.

The following points were included in a fuller enumeration of 11 principles regarded as necessary for incorporation in a declaration of this character: the right to legal remedy against violations of the rights contained in the Declaration; the adoption by all state parties of effective legislative measures to prevent and eliminate religious discrimination; respect for the liberty of parents and guardians to ensure the moral and religious education of their children and wards; recognition of every person's, group's, and community's right to manifest their religion or belief in public or private, including freedom of worship, teaching of religious precepts, maintenance of the appropriate institutions, association and affiliation with other religious communities and institutions; the freedom of observance of religious rites and customs; the right to train ministers and teachers of religion; the right to marriage

and burial according to religious beliefs, to observance of holy days, to receiving funds and subsidies for religious purposes on a non-discriminatory basis, and to refuse to take oaths of a religious nature contrary to that person's beliefs. (The full text of this important memorandum is contained in UN Document E/CN.4/NGO 264 of February 6th, 1980).

The proposals, which seem to be in accord with the views of the other major faiths, commanded wide support and the WJC representative was actively engaged in negotiations on the text of the Declaration in consultation with the Vatican, UK, and Irish delegates to the Commission, amongst others.

Another human rights question on which the WJC has supported a request for effective action together with other NGOs, is the disturbing phenomenon of missing persons, claimed by many sources to involve government-sponsored abduction of political opponents, followed by the denial by the authorities that such persons were detained. Situations of this character have been reported to exist in the Latin American region, but it was recognized that the practice extended to countries in other areas. The WJC supported the proposal of NGOs that a working group of the Commission should be appointed to examine urgently into claims of disappearance, whether enforced or involuntary, of persons in this category. NGOs were considered as reliable sources from which such information could be obtained.

Other matters of interest to the WJC discussed by the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission and which have also been considered by the International Law Panel, established under the auspices of the Institute of Jewish Affairs (see section on Research), are a draft Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities; a draft Declaration on Human Rights of Individuals who are not Citizens of the Country in which they live; and the question of the individual's duties to the community and the limitations on human rights and freedoms under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The WJC has also supported the elaboration of a draft Convention on Torture, and a Convention on the Rights of the Child, which have been under examination by special working groups at recent sessions of the Commission on Human Rights.

The WJC has also joined in an NGO request to the General Assembly calling for the abolition of the death penalty by an appropriate international instrument.

Since the entry into force of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) and the appointment of the Human Rights Committee established under the Covenant to supervise observance of its provisions by state parties, the WJC has been regularly attending sessions of this

Committee, particularly in relation to the examination of reports of State parties, which have to be filed within one year from the Covenant's entering into effect in relation to the reporting country.

Thus, at the session of the Human Rights Committee which took place in Geneva in October/November 1978, the WJC submitted relevant material, compiled by the IJA, to members of the Committee on the occasion of the examination of reports submitted by several countries. The questions put to representatives of these reporting countries by the Committee members who had consulted this material, reflected concern with the issues raised in the WJC documentation, including such questions as the right to leave; the practice of anti-Semitism; the existence of religious freedom; and the effective enjoyment of the rights of ethnic, religious, or linguistic minorities.

Similarly, at the session of the Human Rights Committee in the summer of 1979, the WJC representative briefed certain Committee members on the plight of Jews in Syria as a country whose report was examined at that session. Since the Human Rights Committee members are generally individual experts of high repute, the work of this Committee is particularly constructive and valuable.

Also in the summer of 1979, the Human Rights Committee issued its first determination on an individual communication or complaint under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, which recognizes the competence of the Committee to consider communications from individuals coming under a State Party's jurisdiction, in which such individuals claim that their rights under the Covenant have been violated. The Committee showed determination in dealing with complaints which asserted violations, including torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, in violation of a provision of the Covenant by a Latin American state party to the Optional Protocol. Other similar decisions have also recently been issued.

Racial Discrimination

The WJC has been totally committed to the support of the Decade of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1973 as originally formulated. Following the adoption of resolution 3379 (XXX) in November 1975 by the General Assembly, purporting to equate Zionism with racism, it became clear that the purposes of the Decade had been deliberately distorted by the consistent practice of Arab and Islamic states, with the backing of Third World countries and Eastern European bloc states, of putting into the record an interpretation of racism based on the offensive resolution on Zionism, which Western states had rejected and condemned.

Immediately following adoption of this resolution, the WJC served notice that henceforth it would not participate in any activities held in connection with the anti-racism Decade, whose terms of reference

were in any way linked to the anti-Zionist resolution. Accordingly, its Geneva and New York representatives at the NGO subcommittees on racial discrimination, announced their withdrawal. Subsequently, the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights, of which the subcommittees are subsidiary bodies, made clear that they would refrain from dealing with this divisive issue.

In accordance with its unequivocal opposition to any kind of racial discrimination, reaffirmed in many of its statements, the WJC applied for admission as observer to the World Conference for Action against Apartheid, to be held in Lagos in 1977, which was sponsored by the UN, the Organization of African Unity, and other organizations. To the WJC's dismay, the request was rejected. In protest against the refusal, which gave rise to very critical comments in responsible organs of public opinion, the Israel government announced its withdrawal from the conference. In a statement by the then Chairman of the WJC Governing Board, Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, the rejection of the WJC's application was strongly condemned as an act of discrimination unworthy of a conference held under UN auspices. It was emphasized that the disappointment of the WJC at this refusal would in no way diminish further WJC efforts to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of race, colour, religion, or ethnic origin; nor would it affect the commitment of Congress to the struggle against apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination. These views were also conveyed in a letter to the UN Secretary-General.

On 10th August 1978, Mr. Klutznick, as WJC President, publicly announced the Governing Board's decision taken at its Herzliya meeting the preceding May, not to attend as an observer the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, commencing in Geneva on August 14th. Mr. Klutznick stated that the WJC's decision -- taken with regret and notwithstanding its repeated endorsement of the programme and priorities of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as originally formulated under General Assembly resolution 3057 of 2nd November 1973 -- was due to the fact that the World Conference was being convened under UN resolutions which, by their very terms as interpreted by the majority, were themselves tainted with racism. The WJC would, however, continue its traditional struggle against racism in whatever guise it was cloaked.

The WJC did, however, attend the International NGO Conference for Action against Apartheid, held in Geneva at the end of August 1978, since this conference was not based on UN resolutions directed against Zionism, but was called for the sole purpose of considering action against apartheid.

The Declaration and Programme for Action adopted at the World Conference held in Geneva later the same month, were the subject of wide-spread controversy, leading to a walk-out by Western delegations, the US having refused, together with Israel, to attend the conference because of the link with the resolution maligning Zionism.

The WJC has also taken an active interest in and supported the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which began its work following the entry into effect of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the beginning of 1969. This Committee has similar functions to those the Human Rights Committee has in relation to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. While the deliberations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination have been politicized on some issues, its work is generally of a high standard and it is clear that its proceedings in applying the provisions of the Convention will be a matter of continuing interest. Israel adhered to the Convention at the end of 1978.

The Convention had an important influence on the Unesco Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, adopted in 1978.

The second edition of a valuable commentary on the Convention, written by Dr. Natan Lerner, Executive Director of the WJC's Israel Branch, was published in 1980, updating the previous edition which appeared nine years earlier. The study was published under the auspices of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the research arm of the WJC.

International Humanitarian Law

Reference has already been made to WJC participation at the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, whose 4th session was concluded in 1977 with the adoption of two protocols to the Geneva Convention of 12th August 1949, relating respectively to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and of non-international armed conflicts. As noted, a working group of NGOs, presided over by the Secretary-General of the WJC, circulated two memoranda during the course of the four sessions, supported by a large number of NGOs representing a very broad spectrum of interests.

While the Diplomatic Conference made progress in a number of fields, particularly in regard to the protection of the civilian populations and the natural environment in time of war, other clauses that were adopted aroused considerable controversy; this applied especially to the decision to treat national liberation wars as international conflicts, and to the clauses on the protection of guerilla fighters.

The Conference did not solve the problem of granting recognition of the Magen David Adom as a protective emblem under the Geneva Conventions on the same basis as that accorded to the Red Cross,

the Red Crescent, and the Red Lion and Sun. The MDA, as the Israeli national relief society, has thus continued to be deprived of the right to be a member of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The WJC has continued to devote considerable effort in raising this issue with the competent international authorities. In particular, at its session in Geneva in November 1976, the WJC Governing Board strongly urged that this discrimination finally cease, and that the status of the MDA within the International Red Cross movement be regularized.

At the International Red Cross Conference held in Bucharest in October 1977, where the WJC was represented by its legal adviser, the problem of the emblems of the Red Cross was due to be examined, following a proposal that the Bucharest Conference consider the possibility of establishing a single unified and universally recognized protective emblem. It is the question of the emblem which has barred recognition of the MDA to-date.

While an attempt to have the Conference discuss this question was forestalled by a decision of a meeting of the Council of Delegates immediately prior to the opening of the Conference, the WJC representative discussed the problem in depth with the MDA observers as well as with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, together with key members of their staffs.

As also noted in a different context, the WJC has frequently been represented at meetings of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, where these and related problems have been discussed, including, on a recent occasion, a controversial interpretation of the principle of family reunion under the notion of asylum, with important humanitarian as well as political connotations.

Unesco

The WJC, as in the past, has continued its regular attendance at General Conferences of Unesco as well as being represented by an observer at sessions of the Executive Board. Further, the WJC has been active as part of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relations with Unesco. Dr. Friedrich L. Brassloff and Mr. Serge Cwajgenbaum assured the WJC representation at Unesco.

At the NGO Conference held in Paris in November 1975, a resolution was adopted which favoured an amendment to a Unesco Executive Board resolution on regionalization, aimed at improving Israel's position following its exclusion in the previous year from any Unesco regional group. This followed an initiative taken by the WJC International Affairs Director, supported by all five Jewish NGOs in consultative status with Unesco. Another proposal to denounce the UN condemnation of Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination, was referred to the Standing NGO Committee. This proposal had already met with considerable resistance at the Resolutions Committee in which the WJC was represented, but had finally been declared admissible. Despite a request from Unesco's Director-General, the Jewish NGOs refused to withdraw the motion.

Subsequently, the WJC President held discussions with Unesco's Director-General with a view toward finding a solution to Israel's problems in the organization.

At the 19th General Conference in Nairobi in October-November 1976, it was decided, inter alia, to admit Israel into one of the regional groupings, thus restoring the principle of universality of representation of its membership. This decision was also to some extent motivated by the US Congress' decision to withhold the US contribution to Unesco which covers about a quarter of its budget, in protest against the anti-Israel resolutions as well as widespread criticism by intellectuals and public opinion in the Western states. This meeting also witnessed the inclusion of a reference to the UN General Assembly anti-Zionist resolution of 1975 in the draft Declaration on Mass Media, provoking the withdrawal of 12 Western countries from the meeting. Action was, however, deferred till the 1978 General Conference. Several statements made by the representative of the WJC on its position vis-à-vis Unesco and on Jewish attitudes towards the Third World, were published in Nairobi newspapers.

At the 20th General Conference of Unesco, held in Paris in 1978, Israel was again condemned for its archeological excavations in Jerusalem and for its alleged practices regarding culture and education in the administered territories. The General Conference also adopted, by acclamation, a Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, which had been drafted by a meeting of government experts in which the WJC had participated as an observer. It should be noted that the Declaration is acceptable from the Jewish point of view and that all references to Zionism were eliminated.

In March 1979, Dr. Natan Lerner, Executive Director of the WJC Israel Branch, was invited to serve as a consultant at the Unesco Secretariat in Paris and to prepare a comparative study on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Unesco Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice. The study served as a basis for a Unesco submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the coordination of the two instruments.

The 21st General Conference was held in September/October 1980 in Belgrade, where the WJC was represented, as in the past. At this Conference an attempt to reject the credentials of the Israel delegation because of the Knesset law on Jerusalem was frustrated, as well as the demand to have sanctions imposed on Israel. The controversy over excavations in Jerusalem, familiar from previous sessions of the General Conference, again arose.

Earlier in 1980 the WJC had submitted to the Director-General of Unesco a number of observations on the Draft Programme for the period 1981 - 1983. These comments expressed the WJC's agreement with the programme to promote appreciation and respect for cultural identity for individuals, groups, nations, and regions, and especially the intention to promote recognition of national pluralism and respect for the identity of minorities. The value of these projects was particularly stressed from the standpoint of Jewish experience, especially in the educational field. The WJC further welcomed a proposal to study legislation concerning the education of cultural minorities with particular attention to their distinctive language. In this connection the WJC suggested that competent NGOs could also make worthwhile contributions and offered the WJC's and its member organizations' assistance in implementing this project. The suggestion was also welcomed by the WJC of a proposed experts meeting to examine measures required for combating ethnocide, with a view to supplementing the Genocide Convention. It was hoped that the WJC and other NGOs concerned with this problem would be able to contribute to this examination. The WJC further expressed support of Unesco's promotion of education and information on the teaching of human rights, following the International Congress in Vienna in 1978, in which the WJC took part.

The WJC also commented on the significance of proposals for Unesco studies and relations between Arab culture and other cultures. In this connection the WJC's comment stressed the significance of Arab-Jewish cultural relations and expressed the confident hope that the Unesco studies would evaluate and reflect positively on this possibility, with a view to the reduction of prejudice and the promotion of understanding.

It should further be mentioned that in the period under review, the WJC Secretary-General, on 9th October 1979, conveyed to the Director-General of Unesco the WJC's wholehearted support for Poland's proposal that the former concentration camp of Auschwitz be included in the Unesco World Heritage List. He pointed out that acceptance of this proposal would ensure the continued preservation and protection of this historic site by the Polish authorities and at the same time enable assistance and cooperation to be provided by the international community. At its meeting in the following month, Unesco formally decided to include the Auschwitz site in the World Heritage List.

Other international activities of the WJC

The WJC has been regularly represented at meetings of the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization, held each June in Geneva, where Israel has been under constant attack as in other international agencies. The WJC has tried to assist in efforts aimed at redressing the situation with the help of its affiliated communities. The WJC has followed a number of issues of particular concern in the field of discrimination of labour and the work of the Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. A subject of special interest at recent sessions has been the problem of freedom of association and protection of the right to organize, in relation to its application in certain countries. Notable amongst such situations was the case affecting workers under Convention No. 111 on discrimination in employment and occupation, in relation to workers in one particular country, where discrimination had been alleged against workers because they called for implementation of the rights set forth in the two UN human rights covenants.

Mention should also be made of the regular representation of the WJC at the annual meetings of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The WJC has expressed particular interest in the progressive development of refugee law with special reference to international protection of refugees. A topic in which the WJC has been concerned in collaboration with other NGOs was the attempt to draft a convention on territorial asylum, made at the Diplomatic Conference on Territorial Asylum early in 1977 (see supra). While this did not prove to be possible, because of ideological differences between the Eastern and Western delegations at the conference, several Western states decided in the framework of their representation at the Council of Europe to reaffirm the basic principle of the international law on asylum arising out of the 1951 Refugee Convention with special reference to the principle of non-refoulement.

It is appropriate to mention two other humanitarian questions on which the WJC expressed its concern, together with other sectors of the international community. At the time of the proposed international conference under the auspices of the UNHCR, the WJC President, Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, issued a statement on 25th June 1979, describing the plight of the "boat people" fleeing from Vietnam as an urgent problem. Recalling the ill-prepared and disastrous Evian Conference of 1938, the WJC President expressed the need for concrete action by the international community and for corresponding undertakings by all individual states to accept substantial numbers of refugees. WJC national communities and affiliates were urged to participate in the international campaign on behalf of Vietnamese refugees and a comprehensive report was compiled of the assistance rendered by the WJC community in this important humanitarian action.

In July 1979 the WJC also joined with 37 other NGOs with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, requesting that ECOSOC ensure that the long-term objectives of the International Year of the Child be included in the elaboration of the new international economic strategy. At the request of the NGO Committee for IYC, the WJC Secretariat submitted a report in March 1980 of activities undertaken by the WJC and its affiliated organizations in connection with IYC, on the basis of information obtained through its member communities and organizations.

It should be noted that as a result of initiatives taken by the late Michael Klein of the Geneva Secretariat in relation to his activities in the Special NGO Committee on Development, of which he was Vice-President, the WJC has been placed on a list of organizations in the field of cooperation in development projects, established by the Commission of the European Community.

In addition, the WJC has been represented at several UN international conferences since the 1975 Plenary Assembly; in some instances, where such meetings were held in countries distant from WJC offices, its representation has been through members of local Jewish communities. Such conferences have included the World Conference of International Women's Year, held in Mexico City in the summer of 1975; the "Habitat" Conference in Vancouver (June 1976); the UNICEF Board meeting in Manila (March 1977); the UN Conference and NGO Forum on Science and Technology for Development (Vienna, August 1979); the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women (Copenhagen, July 1980); the Sixth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Caracas, August/September 1980); and the UN Conference on Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (Geneva, September 1980).

The WJC has also been represented at the annual meetings of Amnesty International (1975 - 1978) and at the World Veterans Federation General Assembly in 1976.

Council of Europe

Throughout the period of reporting, the WJC has been regularly represented at the Ordinary Sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, which are held three times a year. WJC representatives have kept in touch with a number of rapporteurs and members of permanent commissions as well as with senior officials of the Council of Europe Secretariat, particularly on questions concerning human rights, the Arab boycott, and the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. They have further regularly taken part in the meetings, held on the occasion of the Parliamentary Assembly Sessions, of nongovernmental organizations holding consultative status with the Council of Europe and interested in human rights.

The WJC also participated and presented a paper in a colloquium on education in human rights and the struggle against racial prejudice in primary and secondary education, held in Strasbourg in December 1976 under the patronage of the Council of Europe.

The January 1978 session included a joint meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliament of the European Community on the subject of human rights in the world. The WJC permanent representative also attended the 30th meeting of NGOs interested in human rights questions, which was held in conjunction with the January session of the Parliamentary Assembly. The agenda of the NGO meeting included a review of the International Seminar on Torture and Human Rights held in mid-1977; the follow-up on the International Colloquium on Human Rights in Education, held at the end of 1976; and on the proceedings of the Geneva Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law; another item dealt with the suppression of terrorism.

Of particular interest at the April 1978 session of the Parliamentary Assembly was a debate on the conclusions of the Belgrade conference reviewing the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with repeated reference to the situation of Soviet Jewry.

In June 1978 the WJC European Branch submitted an extensive report on neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic activities and propaganda in Europe to the Political Affairs Committee of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly. The report, prepared by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, was submitted in connection with a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee which took place in London on July 6th, 1978, and which considered a proposal that the Parliamentary Assembly discuss the need to combat resurgent fascist and other totalitarian and racist propaganda, as well as all forms of terrorism.

In September of 1978, the WJC was represented at a colloquy organized in Athens by the Council of Europe and the Greek government on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the European Convention on Human Rights in relation to other international instruments for the protection of human rights.

The WJC also participated in the 5th International Colloquy on the European Convention on Human Rights organized by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Council of Europe, held in Frankfurt/Main in April 1980.

At the April 1980 session of the Parliamentary Assembly, the WJC representative discussed with appropriate authorities the Council of Europe's effective use of the memoranda submitted by the European Branch concerning the resurgence of fascist propaganda in Europe and freedom of thought, conscience, and religion in European non-member countries.

The collaboration of the WJC European Branch with the Council of Europe was particularly fruitful in relation to a resolution adopted at the 32nd Ordinary Session in October 1980. . . . On this occasion the Parliamentary Assembly, in response to a report from the rapporteur of its Political Affairs Committee, reflecting documentation supplied by the Institute of Jewish Affairs on the resurgence of anti-Semitic and neo-fascist propaganda, adopted a resolution condemning the most recent attacks, following the bomb incidents in Antwerp, Bologna, Munich, and Paris, which "are all the more repugnant in that they have been perpetrated against innocent crowds, Jewish children, immigrant workers and refugees." It called for effective legislation against incitement to racial, national, and religious hatred and violence.

In response to action taken by the WJC European Branch through its member communities, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, meeting later in October of 1980, welcomed the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly's initiative and agreed to the imperative necessity of putting a stop to such racist, anti-Semitic, fascist and terrorist activities. The Committee also instructed the Ministers' Deputies to give priority to the examination of the Parliamentary Assembly resolution.

In December 1980, a European youth conference, on the subject of Intolerance in Europe, took place in Strasbourg under the auspices of the Council of Europe and its European Youth Centre. This conference was the outcome of a suggestion made originally by the WJC European Youth Advisory Committee at a meeting in Grindelwald in the summer of 1978 -- a proposal which was taken up by the WJC European Branch with the Council of Europe, and following lengthy negotiations with all concerned governments, the European youth conference was finally held. The three-day conference, which in the light of the recent wave of anti-Semitic incidents throughout Europe assumed an especial significance, was attended by 75 youth representatives from a wide range of international youth organizations and national youth committees representing religious groups, political parties, trade unions, scout and guide movements, young farmers groups and other sectors of the international and national youth communities. The Committee of Ministers had throughout shown considerable interest in this meeting, which went through several political, budgetary, and administrative difficulties before the WJC's youth group proposals for the holding of the conference were finally implemented in an amended form.

Because of the WJC's input, which included documentation supplied by the IJA on the distortion of the history of the Holocaust, and the position of ethnic, religious, and cultural minorities, the WJC was represented by five youth representatives and three observers as well as an IJA specialist in the field of the study of anti-Semitism. A distinguished group of experts included university professors, and

senior officials of the Council of Europe, among them a past and the present Directors of the Human Rights Division. Professor Saul Friedlander of Tel-Aviv University gave a striking analysis of the causes of contemporary anti-Semitism, which received wide attention. Three working groups met, one on the historical perspectives of postwar problems and their effect on minorities of all kinds; another on human rights as a universal and global concept as well as their practical implications; and a third was devoted to the theme of education for tolerance.

The youth conference was considered to have been a successful venture. In the proceedings, opened by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, and to which the Dutch Foreign Minister, currently Chairman of the Council of the European Community, sent a special message, an invitation was extended for practical proposals which could be implemented by the Council of Europe. These included suggestions by the WJC participants for the introduction of a European week on "The Diversity of Mankind", to be held simultaneously throughout member states on an agreed date, including explanations of racism and anti-Semitism. Also the working group on the application of human rights noted special measures for implementation, including the banning of incitement to hatred and violence on grounds of race, religion, and nationality, as well as proposals to strengthen a provision of the European Convention on Human Rights on the prevention of discrimination.

European Economic Community

As noted in other sections of this report, the WJC, through its European Branch, has had useful contacts with members of the European Commission and members of the European Parliament of the European Community, both in Brussels and Strasbourg. The European Branch created a special committee on EEC questions in the light of the changed attitudes of European governments belonging to the EEC, with regard to Israel (see section on Israel). The WJC action in relation to the EEC concerning the Arab boycott is reported in a special section.

The EEC Committee of the WJC European Branch also prepared material for the WJC European member communities in the spring of 1979 in connection with the then pending elections to the European Parliament, which took place the following summer. The proposals for communities emphasized the importance of asking candidates for election to promote and safeguard human rights, to seek the banning of incitement to racial and religious hatred by extremist groups and to intensify the fight against terrorism in all countries. The questionnaire prepared by the WJC European Branch's EEC Committee for approaches to individual candidates or to the leadership of parties participating in the elections, evoked interesting and often encouraging answers from the candidates.

Early in March 1980 a delegation of the WJC European Branch, headed by its Chairman, met with Madame Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament, and discussed the possibility of promoting coordinated legislation in the EEC member states relating to racism and anti-Semitism, questions involving Israel and the EEC, such as the Arab boycott, and the situation provoked by the Afghanistan crisis and related issues.

Organization of American States

The WJC was represented at various meetings organized by the OAS, with which it has consultative status. Among these were its regular sessions as well as meetings of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and of educational conferences called by the OAS. The Executive Director of the Latin American Jewish Congress represented the WJC at the 9th Regular Session of the Organization of American States, held in La Paz, Bolivia, in October 1979, where he had discussions with the OAS Secretary-General and a number of diplomatic representatives.

Leaders of DAIA, the representative body of Argentine Jewry, met with members of the mission of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, investigating the situation in Argentina, during the mission's presence in Buenos Aires in September 1979. Prior to the mission's departure, the American member of the mission had consultations with the WJC representatives in New York and was briefed on the Jewish aspect of the problem.

Visiting Washington in November 1979, the WJC Secretary-General was received by Mr. Alejandro Orfila, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, with whom he discussed cooperation between the WJC and the OAS, particularly in the field of human rights problems. On the same occasion, he met with the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, Dr. Edmundo Vargas Carreno. Their discussion dealt mainly with the procedures applied by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and envisaged the possibility of closer practical cooperation between the WJC and the Commission.

On a subsequent visit to Washington in May 1980, the WJC Secretary-General -- accompanied by the Director of the WJC North American Branch -- met with the US Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, with whom he exchanged views on general political developments in various Latin American countries and the position of the Jewish communities. During the same visit, he met again with the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and reviewed developments in the human rights field in recent months.

In October 1980, a WJC American Section delegation visited Washington for meetings and discussions at the White House, State Department, and OAS on inter-American affairs, particularly as these related to Jewish concerns. At the OAS, the delegation met with Secretary-General Orfila and key officials where the Latin American scene was discussed in depth. The meetings were followed by a reception for the delegation which was attended by some twenty Ambassadors accredited to the OAS.

III. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The role of the WJC in the field of culture and education has been under constant scrutiny for many years. The Congress has always acknowledged that, due to lack of funds, it cannot play any significant role in formal education. It did, however, increase its own expenditure in the cultural field over a number of years, at the same time helping to establish and support independent institutions like the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and Beth Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Diaspora. It is no accident that the idea for the creation of both these institutions came from the ranks of the WJC.

The major activities that the Congress has undertaken itself are the organization of international cultural conferences, symposia, and academic seminars; the production entirely on its own of a number of regularly appearing cultural publications; sponsorship and support of a number of other cultural periodicals and the production or assistance in the publication of other cultural material; cooperation in programmes of Beth Hatefutsoth; assistance to small communities; and support for special activities in Yiddish. Moreover, the Congress has supported the special Universities Project carried out by Professor Moshe Davis.

In the period since the Sixth Plenary Assembly, the Cultural Department, based in Jerusalem and headed by Mr. Itzhak Harkavi, initiated and cooperated in the implementation of a number of important projects. While it is impossible here to enumerate all the projects in which the Department was involved, we would like to mention some of its more significant contributions.

The Cultural Department helped in the organization of world conferences of Jewish journalists in February 1975 and in February 1977 in Israel. It participated in the organization of a World Conference on Yiddish and Jewish Culture, in Jerusalem, in August 1976. It was one of the organizers, together with Brit Ivrit Olamit, of the European Conferences of Hebrew Language and Culture, held in Vienna in November 1976, in Amsterdam in November 1978, and in Warsaw in August 1980. The Warsaw conference, the first of its kind in Eastern Europe, was of particular significance.

In June 1978 the First International Congress for the Study of the Heritage of Sephardi and Oriental Jewry was held in Jerusalem. The WJC Cultural Department was the initiator and played an active role in convening the Congress, together with Misgav Yerushalayim (The Hebrew University's Institute for Study and Research on the Sephardi and Oriental Jewish Heritage), the World Sephardi Federation, the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture, the WZO, and the Council of the Sephardi Community in Jerusalem. Several hundred scholars and visitors from Israel and other countries attended the Congress.

The World Congress on Jewish Music -- initiated and organized by the WJC Cultural Department and the Israel Ministry of Education and Culture's National Council of Culture and Art -- took place on the Hebrew University campus in Jerusalem from July 31st to August 5th, 1978. Some 500 musicologists, ethnomusicologists, composers, musicians, clergymen, and music lovers from 15 countries took part in the sessions of the Congress, whose theme was "Musical Tradition and Creation in the Culture of the Jewish People -- East and West."

The first International Conference on Research in Yiddish Language and Literature was held in August 1979 at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies. The Cultural Department was one of the sponsors of this Conference, in which 75 Yiddish scholars from Western and Eastern Europe, Israel, the USA, and Canada participated.

Together with Yad Vashem, the WZO Education and Culture Department, and the Jewish Culture Committee (Yiddish), the WJC Cultural Department assembled a mobile exhibit of Jewish culture and creativity under Nazi rule. Consisting of about 50 panels with some 400 photographs and other artifacts -- heretofore unknown for the most part -- the exhibit was accompanied by explanatory notes in Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish, English, and French. It is intended to show the exhibit in Jewish communities in 12 countries.

The manuscript of Hagut Ivrit Be'artzot HaIslam (studies on Jewish themes by contemporary Jewish scholars of Islamic countries) was completed and edited in cooperation with Brit Ivrit Olamit. The volume contains sections devoted to language study, Hebrew literature, and Jewish thought, folklore, changes in the history of the Jewish people, and education and culture.

The Department assisted in the preparation of a history of the Jewish people in Arabic. The volume will be published by the Hebrew University's Afro-Asian Institute.

Publication of the final three volumes of a Japanese translation of the history of the Jewish people is expected shortly. The first three volumes of the translation, edited by the late Professor Hillel Ben-Sasson, have already been published. The translation followed an initiative of the Cultural Department, which gave its assistance throughout.

The Cultural Department publishes Jewish Cultural News (appearing five times a year). It contains news of Jewish cultural activities throughout the world, arranged in sections under such headings as: Education, Scholarship, Religion, Music and Art, Films and Television, Prizes and Scholarships and an extensive Bookshelf section -- notes on recent publications on Jewish subjects.

Until the end of 1980 the Cultural Department sponsored and financed the publication of the prestigious Jewish Journal of Sociology, published in London, which will in the future appear as an independent publication.

The Department also sponsored, jointly with the Israel Committee for Yiddish, Folk, Velt, un Medine, and jointly with the World Jewish Bible Society, Dor leDor. It assisted in the publication of Di Goldene Kayt and of Davke, the Yiddish philosophical review appearing in Argentina.

The WJC European Branch initiated a project of assisting the cultural life of small Jewish communities in Europe. The project was facilitated by a grant from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. In the period under review, gifts of Jewish books and publications have been sent to a number of small Jewish communities in Europe.

Most important in Europe, however, was the WJC academic programme. Since 1957 colloquia of French-speaking Jewish intellectuals have been held in Paris under the auspices of the WJC French Section. These symposia have attracted a great number of Jewish intellectuals, many of whom have little contact with organized Jewish life. The number of participants has on occasion exceeded 800. More than twenty colloquia have so far taken place, all on a high level. The theme of the 18th colloquium was "The Muslim Community"; of the 19th, "Jerusalem, the Unique and the Universal"; of the 20th, "Politics and Religion"; of the 21st, "Community". The proceedings of all of the colloquia, edited by a team of highly qualified experts, have been published by the Presses Universitaires de France with the support of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. These publications constitute one of the finest contributions to modern Jewish thought.

The French Section has also arranged several regional colloquia during the period under review, as well as a series of colloquia of Yiddish-speaking intellectuals. The Section's Cultural Service has been called upon by many communities in France to provide lecturers on cultural themes.

In Latin America the WJC has equally devoted an important part of its cultural activities to the academic sector. Under the auspices of the Latin American Jewish Congress, the first Latin American Colloquium on Cultural Pluralism took place in Buenos Aires in November 1976, and evoked great interest in Jewish and non-Jewish circles. The LAJC's second Latin American Colloquium on Cultural Pluralism was held in Buenos Aires in December 1978 and received wide coverage in the press, on the radio, and on television.

In June 1979, the Latin American Jewish Congress organized its first encounter of Jewish intellectuals, which took place at the DAIA headquarters in Buenos Aires. One of the motivations for this undertaking was to attract to the LAJC outstanding Jewish intellectuals otherwise not involved in Jewish public life. The 30 participants in this first encounter -- whose theme was "Israel and the Diaspora: The Attitude of the Jewish Intellectual" -- came from Argentina, Uruguay, and Israel. The impact of the first meeting was so positive that in October of the same year the LAJC held a second encounter of Jewish intellectuals, with 40 participants from Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. The theme was "Israel - Diaspora: History and Politics of a Relationship".

In the summer of 1979, the Latin American Jewish Congress started to publish a new periodical, Colloquio. Intended for Latin American academic and intellectual circles, the publication's aim is to present a Jewish viewpoint on both specifically Jewish and broader subjects such as discrimination, human rights, cultural pluralism, Israel and Zionism, etc. Each article is followed by an English summary of its contents. The first issue of Colloquio was well received, especially in circles far removed from everyday Jewish life, and further issues have been published.

The publication of the very successful Popular Jewish Library series produced by the Latin American Jewish Congress since 1966, has unfortunately been temporarily interrupted since 1978 for financial reasons.

In North America, a wide range of cultural, academic, and research-oriented programmes has been undertaken during the period under review.

The Academic Committee of the WJC American Section conducted a series of highly successful seminars of Jewish academics, usually held in conjunction with universities and other scholarly institutions, with the participation of outstanding experts and scholars. Some of the themes of these seminars were: "Third World and Other New Attitudes Toward the Jew" (held at Columbia University's School of International Affairs in March 1975); "Minorities in the Middle East" (held in conjunction with the Program in Southwest Asian and North African Studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton in October 1975); "Aspects of the American Jewish Experience" (co-sponsored with the Conference on Jewish Social Studies, held at Columbia University in April 1976); "The Influence of Ethnic Groups on the Formulation of American Foreign Policy" (held under the joint auspices of the Academic Committee and the Jewish Studies Program of the American University in Washington, November 1976); and "The Future of Jewish Study Courses at American Universities" (co-sponsored with the City University of New York in June 1977). A symposium on "Self-Definition in Early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism" (held in San Francisco with the Graduate Theological Union, March 1980) drew major scholars from across the US.

Joint programmes on Latin American Jewry were held in conjunction with the Center for Inter-American Relations in the spring of 1978 and 1980.

During the past six years, the Academic Committee has published, under the editorship of Mr. Mark Friedman, the Survey of Current Jewish Research -- the only regular publication on research in progress in all fields of Jewish studies. Given its wide circulation, publishers are increasingly turning to the Survey for books of promise and speakers' bureaus are using it to locate specialists on given topics.

A major seminar on "Religious Factors in Conflicts in the Middle East" was held in Washington in June 1979. Jointly sponsored by the American Section and Georgetown University's prestigious Center for Strategic and International Studies, the seminar drew high-level members of the government, academic, business, military, and intelligence communities. The Muslim perspective was provided by the UN representative of the World Muslim Congress, who described the meeting as "a remarkable Muslim-Jewish dialogue". The published monograph resulting from this seminar was given wide distribution, including members of the US Senate, the House of Representatives, and the intelligence community.

On March 26th, 1980, a highly publicized symposium on "Jews in the Cities" was held in New York's City Hall. Diverse aspects of the urban condition were addressed by the prominent speakers. The symposium was opened by New York Mayor Edward Koch.

In the area of curriculum development, the American Section co-sponsored and created two courses offered at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. The first, on Black-Jewish relations, has been described earlier (see "Third World"). The second course, on Contemporary World Jewry, was offered in the fall of 1979. Instructors were drawn from the professional staff of the WJC New York office.

A special meeting on rabbinic placement was held in April 1980 at the WJC New York offices in conjunction with the Small Communities Commission. Attended by the placement officers of the major American Jewish seminaries and rabbinic associations as well as representatives of other involved organizations, it was a first step toward the goal of cooperation in the provision of small communities with rabbis.

The WJC was represented at three major academic conventions in the US during 1980: The Coalition on Alternatives in Jewish Education, the American Academy of Religion-Society of Biblical Literature, and the Association for Jewish Studies. At all three, the academic and research programmes of the WJC were publicized and openings made for possible future programmes for the WJC.

A number of important new global projects have been initiated during recent years:

Under the auspices of the President of Israel, the WJC, together with the WZO, sponsored a study on systematic development and international cooperation in Jewish studies given in institutions of general higher education in different parts of the world. The study was carried out by Professor Moshe Davis of the Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry.

In January 1979, the WJC, in accordance with a recommendation made by its General Council in Washington in 1977, announced the establishment of a Heritage Committee, with the aim of promoting the preservation and protection of the ancient Jewish historical, religious, and cultural patrimony in the Diaspora.

In the two years since its inception, the Committee has been engaged in developing programmes in Italy (Jewish catacombs in Rome and Venosa), and in Greece (Jewish museum in Athens). Also in progress are negotiations and research for projects in France, Egypt, the Caribbean, and Venice.

In May 1979 the Committee was granted a permit by the Italian government to excavate in the important Jewish catacombs of Venosa. This was accomplished with the support of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, a member of the WJC, and is of special significance since it is unprecedented for non-academic institutions to receive such a permit.

The scholarly importance of the work in Venosa received further recognition in November 1980, when the prestigious American School of Oriental Research unanimously agreed to support the work, along with the American Academy in Rome and the University of Bari. Dr. Eric Meyers of Duke University, who is an archaeologist of international stature and the Chairman of the Academic Advisory Committee of the Heritage Committee, will lead the excavation in May 1981.

The safeguarding of Jewish religious and cultural treasures in Egypt was the subject of discussions between WJC leaders and senior Egyptian officials in the US and Egypt, notably during Mr. Klutznick's talks with President Sadat in Alexandria in July 1979 and Mr. Bronfman's meeting with the Egyptian President in Washington in April 1980. The Congress has been in contact with the World Sephardi Federation, the Lehman Foundation, Israel authorities, and other interested bodies. The WJC has submitted concrete proposals for the establishment of an official Egyptian-WJC mixed commission to deal authoritatively with these matters, and of a commission of experts and scholars in which all interested groups would be represented.

Beth Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, was officially opened in May 1978 on the occasion of the Governing Board meeting in Herzliya. In a formal resolution, the Governing Board

Expressed its deep satisfaction at the inauguration, on May 15 1978, of Beth Hatefutsoth, the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, dedicated to recording and preserving the spiritual heritage of the Jewish people in the Dispersion;

Recalled that the idea of this unique educational enterprise was originally conceived at the Fourth Plenary Assembly of the WJC in Stockholm in 1959;

Commended Dr. Nahum Goldmann and members of the leadership of the World Jewish Congress who have contributed so much to the realization of this remarkable endeavour so comprehensively depicting, by the most advanced technological means, Jewish life in all its facets throughout the Diaspora, epitomizing the eternal values of Jewish faith and destiny;

Recognized that Beth Hatefutsoth constitutes an unparalleled instrument for cementing the bonds and deepening the understanding between Israel and the Diaspora;

Called upon the Executive of the WJC, all member communities, organizations and affiliates to cooperate with Beth Hatefutsoth, to ensure the full utilization of this outstanding educational vehicle for enriching Jewish identity and experience; and

Authorized the President and the Secretary-General of the WJC to create permanent institutional ties between the WJC and Beth Hatefutsoth.

In execution of this decision the WJC became one of the sponsoring organizations of Beth Hatefutsoth and is represented on its Board by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, Mr. Sol Kanee, Dr. Zalman Abramov, and Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner.

The WJC Executive meeting in Amsterdam in July 1980 reconfirmed the close relationship between the WJC and Beth Hatefutsoth, took note with great satisfaction of the outstanding success of the museum, declared Beth Hatefutsoth as the major cultural project of the WJC, and directed its officers to strengthen the links between the two institutions through close cooperation in the cultural and educational field and through active participation in its administration and finances.

The WJC in Israel has joined with Beth Hatefutsoth and the WZO in organizing and financing seminars in several languages at Beth Hatefutsoth. In the summer of 1980, over 1800 people from 17 countries between the ages of 15 and 25 participated in the seminars.

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During the WJC Executive meeting held in Chicago in November 1979, a far-reaching discussion on WJC priorities took place and the Executive decided to appoint a small committee to make recommendations on WJC priorities in the light of fiscal considerations. At the Executive meeting in London in April 1980, the Priorities Committee submitted its recommendations. Pursuant to these recommendations, it was subsequently decided that while the Congress attached great importance to the continuation of cultural activities, these would in the future have to be mainly financed by local resources from the communities and that for the time being, the WJC central budget would have to be relieved of the major part of the cultural expenses. A number of these activities have therefore been curtailed in recent months or transferred to the sphere of activities of member communities, and some of the activities may not be continued in the future.

Mr. Itzhak Harkavi, who had served with great devotion as Head of the Cultural Department for many years, asked to be relieved of his duties and agreed to become Honorary Consultant on Cultural Affairs. It is hoped that the temporary limitations imposed on cultural activities will only be of a short-term nature.

IV. RESEARCH

The move by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the research arm of the WJC, into attractive new quarters in London in December 1980 symbolizes in a way the growth of its scope and of its prestige since it was transferred from New York in 1966 and placed under the direction of Dr. Stephen J. Roth. Lord Goodman is President of the Institute and Lord Lever of Manchester, Chairman of its Research Board.

The Institute is a research body for the study of the contemporary social and economic conditions in which Jews live and of current events and group relations affecting Jews. These conditions and events have brought to the fore new and complex problems such as the rights of Jews in the Soviet Union, the position of the Jewish communities in the turmoil of Latin America, and the attitude of Third World countries to issues of Jewish concern. New patterns of anti-Semitism have emerged in the guise of "anti-Zionism" in the Communist world, among the New Left, and in some right-wing groups; or through Arab hostility, originally directed against Israel but now affecting Jews throughout the world. The traditional right-wing anti-Semitic forces, too, reappear, profiting from the fading impact of Nazi persecution or deliberately attempting to distort history and deny the truth of the Holocaust, and the recent wave of anti-Semitic incidents in a number of countries has made the monitoring of anti-Semitic activities and the discovery of the links among these groups a new priority.

On the internal front, the modern world of rapid change and technological revolution presents a challenge to the form, content, and degree of Jewish identity and to the established institutional structure of the Jewish community. The complexity of all these problems demands continuing research, fact-finding, and critical analysis by the most up-to-date methods of scholarship.

The Institute of Jewish Affairs is engaged in such research through a qualified and experienced graduate staff, which enjoys the counsel of an advisory Research Board of eminent scholars. The Institute also invites experts from outside to conduct studies on its behalf.

The Institute has thus broadened its range of activities in recent years and its present research programme covers the following fields:

1) Current Affairs:

Anti-Semitism, racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, neo-Nazi and radical-right movements;
The position of Jews in the USSR and Eastern Europe;
The changing attitudes of the Christian Churches to Jewry;
Middle East problems; Arab-Jewish relations; Arab boycott;
Anti-Israel and "anti-Zionist" attitudes;
The position of Jews in Latin America;
Policies of Third World countries on matters of Jewish concern.

2) International Legal Problems:

Human rights; UN covenants and the Helsinki Final Act;
Legislation against discrimination and incitement to racial
or religious hatred;
Terrorism.

3) Cultural Issues:

Surveys of Jewish education and research; bibliographies.

4) Sociology of Jews and Jewish Communities:

Study of Jewish identity;
Jewish demographic data in the Diaspora;
Study of the nature and structure of Jewish leadership;
Study of the organizational structure of Jewish communities.

5) Contemporary History:

Studies on the persecution of European Jewry;
Study and refutation of the distortions of Holocaust history.

During the period under review, the Institute has published a series of outstanding books and studies, has been responsible for the publication of three periodicals and has issued a series of research reports. It has organized a number of conferences and seminars as well as lecture series.

The books published by the IJA in recent years reflect the range of its activities. They include notably the following:

- The Shadow of the Swastika. The Rise of Fascism and Anti-Semitism in the Danube Basin 1936-1939, by Professor Bela Vago (Saxon House 1975)
-- an analysis of fully reproduced diplomatic documents of the period.
- Mussolini and the Jews. German-Italian Relations and the Jewish Question in Italy, by Dr. Meir Michaelis (Oxford University Press 1978)
-- the first full-scale work in English on Italian Jewry under fascism.
- Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-1945, by Bernard Wasserstein (Oxford University Press 1979)
-- the first study of the policy of the British government towards the Jewish problem during the Second World War.
- Fifty Years of Jewish Life in the USSR, edited by Dr. L. Kochan with contributions by sixteen eminent experts and an introduction by Prof. L. Schapiro. 3rd revised edition (Oxford University Press 1978)

- Studies in Jewish Demography (jointly with the Hebrew University, Institute of Contemporary Jewry), second volume 1969-71 (published in 1975). A third volume is in preparation.
- The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, by Dr. Natan Lerner. 2nd revised edition. (Published by Sijthoff and Noordhoff, Netherlands 1980)
-- the first commentary on the provisions of the Convention on Racial Discrimination.
- International Bibliography of Jewish Affairs. Volume I compiled and edited by Dr. Elizabeth E. Eppler (published by André Deutsch 1976).

Shorter studies include the following:

- The Helsinki "Final Act" and Soviet Jewry, by Stephen J. Roth (1976)
- Soviet Jewry and the Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act. Report prepared on behalf of the ongoing Presidium and Steering Committee of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry in cooperation with the Jewish communities concerned (1977).
- The Position of Soviet Jewry 1977-1980. Report on the Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act since the Belgrade Follow-up Conference, prepared on behalf of the ongoing Presidium and Steering Committee of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry in cooperation with the Jewish communities concerned (1980).
- Soviet Anti-Semitic Propaganda. Evidence from books, press, and radio (1978).
- Anglo-Jewry: An Analysis, by Jane Moonman. (With the assistance of the Joint Israel Appeal) (1980).
- Survey of Jewish Research in Europe, prepared by Sarah Lock (1976).

The IJA publishes regularly three periodicals, which under a new publication plan devised by the IJA's Publications Committee in 1979, now appear as follows:

- Patterns of Prejudice, a journal devoted to the study of causes and manifestations of racial, religious, and ethnic discrimination and prejudice, with particular reference to anti-Semitism (quarterly on 64 pages)

- Soviet Jewish Affairs, a journal on Jewish problems in the USSR and Eastern Europe. It covers current developments and events as well as historical and broad contextual aspects (thrice yearly on 100 pages)
- Christian Jewish Relations (formerly Christian Attitudes on Jews and Judaism). A documentary survey (quarterly on 64 pages).

The IJA research reports contain topical surveys and background information on current events by the IJA staff or specially commissioned experts. Under the new publication plan, the research reports appear in the same format as the journals at the rate of 25 - 30 a year. The research reports, which deal with a great variety of topics, are receiving increasing publicity and attention from the world press.

In 1976 the IJA established an Advisory Panel on International Law, with the participation of eminent Jewish international lawyers from several countries. At annual sessions of the Panel, attended by international lawyers from the United States, Canada, Israel, and Europe, papers have been presented on various aspects of human rights, in particular cultural and minority rights, on the issues of racism before the United Nations, terrorism, the right of asylum, legal problems of Soviet Jewry, and on the Arab boycott.

The IJA in the period under review sponsored a number of wide-ranging lectures, seminars, and conferences. Its monthly lecture series, where the speakers have been distinguished persons drawn from public life, the academic world, or Jewish leadership, has attracted audiences of high intellectual standard. Symposia arranged by the IJA for academics from British universities and polytechnics have also had a very good response, both as regards participation and increased interest in the IJA among academics.

The IJA is frequently consulted and requested to supply material for news articles as well as television and radio features. Thus, during the period under review, the BBC used IJA documentary and photographic material in its programmes on Treblinka (June 1979) and Raoul Wallenberg (March 1980), and the 1979 report of the Australian Parliament's Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence on "Human Rights in the Soviet Union" contained numerous references to IJA sources.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

CENTRAL ORGANS AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Presidency

During the period under review, very considerable changes have taken place in the leadership of the organization. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, who had announced at the Sixth Plenary Assembly that he would not serve out a full term as President, asked on the occasion of the meeting of the General Council in Washington in 1977 to be relieved of his duties as President. Thus came to an end a major chapter of the Congress' history, during which, succeeding Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Goldmann occupied the presidency uninterruptedly and with singular stature for nearly thirty years.

At the General Council meeting of 1977, Dr. Goldmann was elected by acclamation to the specially created office of "Founder President" with full rights in all organs of the organization. At the same time, Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, the Chairman of the Governing Board, was unanimously elected President of the organization.

At a meeting of the WJC Executive held in New York in November 1979, Mr. Klutznick, following his appointment by President Carter as US Secretary of Commerce, formally took leave of absence from the WJC presidency. The Executive decided that, pending a future review of the situation, the rights and duties of the President would be entrusted to the Chairmen of the four regional Branches of the Congress, with Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman, Chairman of the North American Branch as convener, and in cooperation with the WJC Secretary-General.

At a meeting of the WJC Executive in London, April 1980, Mr. Bronfman was unanimously elected Acting President of the WJC until such time as the Plenary Assembly would meet and elect a slate of officers.

Executive

The organizational changes brought about by the Constitution of the WJC as revised by the Sixth Plenary Assembly in Jerusalem, have contributed considerably to the consolidation of the organizational structure of the Congress. The newly structured WJC Executive met 16 times since the Jerusalem Assembly. The most recent meeting, held in Amsterdam in July 1980, was an enlarged one in which representatives of numerous national member organizations and international organizations in associate status participated, and at which Dr. Goldmann's 85th birthday was celebrated at a special function.

The composition of the Executive has undergone several changes during the period under review. In view of the fact that no women were included in the Executive by the Jerusalem Plenary Assembly, the Executive decided at its meeting in Jerusalem in March 1978, that WIZO and the International Council of Jewish Women each be invited to send one representative to every meeting of the Executive. The two representatives would be considered full members of the Executive with all rights, except that of vote. The Governing Board subsequently approved the Executive's action. Mrs. Raya Jaglom and Mrs. Thea Hacker were designated as representatives of WIZO and the ICJW respectively.

Following the approval of a Special Relationship between the WJC and B'nai B'rith, Mr. Jack Spitzer, President, and Dr. Daniel Thursz, Executive Vice-President of B'nai B'rith, were appointed as observers to the WJC Executive.

Following the untimely passing of Mr. Pinhas Sapir and Mr. Ezra Shapiro, two new members were elected to the Executive: Mr. Kalman Sultanik succeeded Mr. Ezra Shapiro as Vice-President, and Mr. Akiva Lewinsky succeeded Mr. Leon Dulzin as Chairman of the General Council, while Mr. Leon Dulzin, in his capacity as Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, acceded to Mr. Sapir's seat on the Executive, which had been temporarily held by Mr. Josef Almogi.

At its meeting in Geneva on March 21st-23rd, 1979, the Governing Board confirmed the appointments, as required by the Constitution, of Dr. S. Zalman Abramov and Dr. Maurice Grynfogel, whom the Israel and European Branches had elected as their respective Chairmen. Dr. Abramov, who succeeded Mr. Itzhak Korn, and Dr. Grynfogel, who filled the vacancy created by Lord Fisher's election as Chairman of the Governing Board, thus became members of the Executive.

At its London meeting in April 1980, the Executive decided to appoint a number of Co-Treasurers in various parts of the world. It proceeded to elect Mr. Mendel Kaplan of South Africa and Mrs. Raya Jaglom of Israel as such Co-Treasurers, and authorized the Acting President, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to appoint additional Co-Treasurers as needed.

In order to strengthen the links with the South East Asian region, the WJC President invited the President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Mr. Isi J. Leibler, CBE, to attend meetings of the Executive.

Following the untimely passing of Lord Fisher of Camden, Chairman of the Governing Board, the position was temporarily left vacant. In view of the fact that Lord Fisher's absence left the Board of Deputies of British Jews without a representative on the WJC Executive, the WJC Presidium, in January 1980, invited Mr. Greville Janner, President of the Board of Deputies, to serve on the Executive with full rights for so long as this situation existed.

Governing Board

In the period under review, the Governing Board met in Geneva in July 1975, in Paris in February 1976, in Geneva in November 1976, in Washington in October-November 1977, in Herzliya in May 1978, and in Geneva in March 1979. The meeting scheduled for 1980 was replaced by an enlarged Executive meeting.

In its July 1975 session in Geneva, the Governing Board laid down the terms of reference of its various Commissions. The following Commission Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen were elected to serve two-year terms: International Affairs Commission -- Dr. Schneier Levenberg, Chairman; Cultural Commission -- Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, Chairman, and Dr. Leon Kronitz, Vice-Chairman; Organization Commission -- Mr. Michael M. Fidler, JP, Chairman, and Dr. Izak Warszawski-Varsat, Vice-Chairman; Commission on Small Communities -- Mr. Lavy M. Becker, Chairman.

At the expiry of the two-year term, Me Alexis Goldschmidt was elected Chairman of the International Affairs Commission with Dr. Schneier Levenberg as Co-Chairman; Dr. Leon Kronitz, Chairman of the Cultural Commission, and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, Vice-Chairman. Mr. Michael Fidler and Mr. Lavy Becker were reelected as Chairmen of their respective Commissions, with Dr. Warszawski-Varsat as Vice-Chairman of the Organization Commission.

In February 1976, following the report of an Ad Hoc Youth Committee, the Governing Board established a WJC Standing Commission on the Young Generation, composed of representatives of the regional Youth Advisory Committees to be created in each regional Branch, and of experts on youth affairs and lay leaders of the WJC.

In 1977, two additional Commissions were created: the Publications Commission, and the Commission on Personnel Policy, Pensions, and Social Security. Mr. Jacques Torczyner was appointed Chairman of the first, and Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, Chairman of the second.

On the occasion of the November 1976 meeting of the Governing Board in Geneva, a public function celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Organization was held.

General Council

The General Council met in Washington from October 30th to November 3rd, 1977. This meeting, the first of its kind held in the United States, with more than 250 participants from all continents, including large delegations from Eastern Europe, represented one of the highlights of the organizational life of the Congress. Among the distinguished participants were President Jimmy Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Madame Simone Veil, Minister of Health of the French Republic, and Dr. Joseph Burg, Minister of the Interior of the State of Israel.

New Membership

During the period under review, a number of important Jewish communities have joined the World Jewish Congress.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies, which in the past had attended WJC meetings in an observer capacity, applied for full membership in 1978 and its application was confirmed by the Governing Board at its meeting in Geneva in March 1979.

On the occasion of the Executive meeting in Chicago in November 1979, a leadership delegation of the Central Council of Jewish Communities of Morocco officially presented their organization's request for affiliation. The affiliation was subsequently approved and was particularly welcomed as the first affiliation of a Jewish community from an Arab country.

Of great significance was the request for affiliation by the Central Board of Hungarian Jews, the representative body of the largest Jewish community in Eastern Europe outside the Soviet Union, presented in September 1980. The Jewish community of Hungary has attended WJC meetings in recent years in an observer capacity. The Executive noted this development with great satisfaction and unanimously recommended to the Governing Board approval of the application.

The Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium merged in 1977 with the WJC Belgian Section, thus creating a larger base for the WJC in the community.

The Jewish community of Stockholm became in 1978 a member organization of the WJC. Consequently the WJC Swedish Section, which had an outstanding record in assisting Jewish war victims during and after World War II, was dissolved.

Several small Jewish communities have joined the WJC during the last few years, notably the Jewish Association of Thailand and the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas (Virgin Islands).

A number of international movements have entered the WJC as international organizations in associate status: The Permanent Standing Committee of the World Conference of Synagogues and Kehillot, which is a roof body of Orthodox communities and synagogues throughout the world; the World Movement Pioneer Women - Naamat; and the Emunah - World Religious Women's Zionist Organization.

Special Relationships

At the Sixth Plenary Assembly, the WJC and the World Zionist Organization entered into a "special relationship", maintaining full respect for the autonomy of both organizations. The WZO is now represented on all organs of the WJC. Representatives also participate

in sessions of the WJC Governing Board and of the various regional Branches of the Congress. In the period under review, fruitful cooperation between the WJC and the WZO increased, notably as regards cultural activities, Israel-Diaspora relations, and problems of small communities. WJC observers attend meetings of the Zionist Congress and of the Zionist General Council.

The WJC was represented at the 29th Zionist Congress held in Jerusalem from February 20th to 28th, 1978, by an observer delegation consisting of the President, Mr. Klutznick; the late Lord Fisher of Camden, then Chairman of the Governing Board; the Secretary-General, Dr. Riegner; Dr. Benno Milnitzky, President of the Jewish Confederation of Brazil; and Dr. Natan Lerner, Executive Director of the WJC Israel Branch. Mr. Klutznick addressed a plenary session devoted to "The Jewish People and Zionism", and also spoke before the Committee on Political Affairs and Information.

In March 1978, the WJC Executive approved the report of the Joint Committee to Explore the Relationship of the WJC and B'nai B'rith International which had already been approved by the B'nai B'rith Board of Governors. The report followed earnest negotiations between ad hoc committees of the WJC and B'nai B'rith, with a view to establishing a special relationship between the two international organizations. In terms of the special relationship, B'nai B'rith is entitled to appoint two observers to the WJC Executive, three to the Governing Board, and four to the General Council. Although the observers do not have voting rights, they have a voice in all Congress deliberations. A similar pattern exists in regional and, where possible, in local branches. There was a specific understanding that in the special relationship, B'nai B'rith represents the entire B'nai B'rith family. The arrangement provides for a review of the relationship in due course to see whether a still closer arrangement, allowing full participation of B'nai B'rith in the WJC, should be established. In a joint statement issued on May 1st, 1978, the Presidents of the WJC and of B'nai B'rith announced the establishment of this special relationship, which they described as a major contribution to the cause of Jewish unity.

B'nai B'rith representatives have since regularly participated in WJC meetings at all levels, and a friendly and harmonious cooperation has been established between the two organizations in various fields.

Relations with Other Organizations

During the period under review, the WJC continued its close working relationship with the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. Dr. Nahum Goldmann is President of the Memorial Foundation, and Mr. Philip M. Klutznick and Dr. Arthur Hertzberg serve as Vice-Presidents.

The Congress enjoys an equally close relationship with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, presided over by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, under whose auspices the recent indemnification agreement was arrived at. Several high officials of the Congress served as consultants in these negotiations.

In the period under review, the World Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO) ceased to exist because the expectations with which it had originally been founded did not materialize, and because many of the organizations within COJO affiliated directly with the World Jewish Congress.

The WJC established close relations with the European Council of Jewish Community Services in an agreement, concluded in 1978, on cooperation between the WJC European Branch and the European Council, in which the areas of specific competence of each organization were recognized, as well as those in which cooperation between the two organizations is envisaged.

Central Administration

The Congress' Secretariat-General in Geneva continued to function under the direction of Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner.

Mr. Jacques Chamach joined the Secretariat-General in October 1975 as Comptroller, and Mr. Daniel Lack joined it in March 1976 as Legal Adviser, in which post he succeeded Dr. Friedrich L. Brassloff, who retired after decades of faithful service to the Congress.

Twice in a short period the Secretariat-General suffered a great loss. Mr. Claude Lévy, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General, passed away suddenly in May 1976. Mr. Sidney H. Gruber succeeded him as Director of Organization.

Mr. Michael Klein became Undersecretary for international relations in the Secretariat-General in September 1976 and mainly dealt with inter-religious affairs. He died in July 1980 after a cruel illness courageously supported.

Dr. Stephen J. Roth continued to serve as Director of the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs. Dr. Elizabeth E. Eppler became Assistant Director of the Institute in February 1975.

Mr. Armand Kaplan continued to serve as Director of the International Affairs Department located in Paris until his retirement at the end of 1980. He thus brought to an end a distinguished career during which he had served the WJC in various capacities during 35 years.

Mr. Max Melamet, former Director of the North American Branch in New York, became in February 1979 Director of the newly established International Department of Information.

Mr. Itzhak Harkavi headed the Cultural Department, located in Jerusalem, until July 1980, at which time he became Honorary Consultant on Cultural Affairs.

The changes in the direction of the regional Branches are reported in the respective sections of this report.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

North America

During the period under review, the WJC North American Branch, under the chairmanship of Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman, has met at least twice a year with the participation of leaders of the American Section, the Canadian Jewish Congress, and leaders of the Central Jewish Committee of Mexico.

In the six years since the Jerusalem Assembly, the constituency of the WJC in the United States has expanded from sixteen to twenty-three national member organizations representing the spectrum of American Jewry, namely: American Jewish League for Israel; American Jewish Congress; Americans for Progressive Israel; American Mizrachi Women; American Sephardi Federation; Bnai Zion; Central Conference of American Rabbis; Emunah Women of America; Hadassah; Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation; Labor Zionist Alliance; Mizrachi-Hapoel Hamizrachi; National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods; Pioneer Women; Poale Agudath Israel of America; Rabbinical Assembly; Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; United Synagogue of America; United Zionists-Revisionists of America-Herut USA; Women's League for Conservative Judaism; World Federation of Jews of Hungarian Descent, USA Division; Zionist Organization of America.

The Plenary Council and the officers of the American Section have met regularly in the period under review, during which time the Section was under the successive chairmanships of Mr. Jacques Torczyner (1975-1977), Mr. Jacob Katzman (1977-1979), and Rabbi Arthur Schneier who was formally installed as Chairman at a gala dinner in New York's Pierre Hotel on September 17th, 1979. The principal speaker of the evening was US President Carter's National Security Advisor, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski. The 700 guests at the dinner included prominent non-Jews, top American Jewish leaders and Ambassadors of some 35 United Nations missions.

The directorship of the Branch was vacated by Mr. Max Melamet when he took over the directorship of the newly-created WJC Department of Information in February 1979, and he was succeeded both as Director of the Branch and Director of the American Section by Professor Israel Singer, the Deputy Director of both bodies. Concurrently, Professor Singer's deputy, Mr. Elan Steinberg, was given charge of general responsibility in the coordination of American Section affairs while continuing as Head of the New York UN office in his capacity as accredited WJC representative at United Nations Headquarters.

The new International Information Department under Mr. Melamet works out of New York and publishes the monthly WJC central information organ, News and Views. The publication is produced in English and French, with a world-wide circulation that has been steadily increasing.

Both the Branch and the Section have initiated a wide-ranging programme of activities so as to educate and involve its membership in the major concerns of the WJC.

In the political field, the New York office has maintained close and regular contact with the various State Department desks, UN Missions, the OAS, and Embassies in Washington, especially Eastern European. Such contacts have included meetings with Branch delegations, among which the following were noteworthy:

On March 4th, 1980, a select delegation of the American Section led by its Chairman, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, held a series of private discussions in Washington with officials at the highest levels of government. President Carter assured the group that the voting error on Jerusalem made by the United States at the Security Council two days earlier "will never be repeated again". In addition to the President of the United States, private talks were held with highest ranking officials of the State Department, Pentagon and White House staffs. These included: General David Jones, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Harold Brown, Secretary of Defense; Stuart Eisenstat, Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Policy; Zbigniew Brzezinski, Assistant to the President for National Security.

In October of that year, a Branch delegation which included the President of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Professor Irwin Cotler, visited Washington for discussions at the White House, State Department, and OAS, on inter-American affairs.

In view of the especially valuable role the North American Director had been playing in assuring effective liaison with the American State Department, Professor Israel Singer was invited as the featured speaker at the State Department's Open Forum in May 1980. The subject of discussion was "American Interest in the Middle East in the 1980s." The Secretary's Open Forum operates within the US Department of State as a vehicle for sending new or alternative foreign policy views to the Secretary of State and other senior officials.

Since the International Affairs Commission of the North American Branch was formed in late 1978 to consider international events affecting the Jewish people, it has heard important speakers and held discussions on endangered and other Jewish communities, interfaith activities, and international views of the Middle East situation. The Commission has been chaired by Mrs. Bernice Tannenbaum and co-chaired by Mr. Jacob Stein. During the period under review, the Commission was addressed by Mr. Amoakon-Edjampan Thiemele, Ambassador of the Ivory Coast to the UN; Mr. Herman Eilts, US Ambassador to Egypt from 1973 to 1979; Dr. Abdel Meguid, Egyptian Ambassador to the UN, who was accompanied by the Counsellor to the Egyptian UN Mission; Professor Dankwart A. Rustow, distinguished Professor of Political Science at the City University Graduate Center,

who spoke on "Oil and the Middle East Problems of the 1980s"; Mr. Abdallah Mwidau, member of the Kenyan Parliament; Ambassador Ole Algard of Norway, President of the UN Security Council for June 1980, who spoke on "Norway, its Jewish Community, and its Views on the Middle East"; and Sir Anthony Parsons, British UN Ambassador and President of the Security Council for November 1980. The Commission also met with interfaith delegations from Hungary and Rumania, the latter including Chief Rabbi Dr. David Moses Rosen.

In the wake of the events surrounding Andrew Young's resignation as US Ambassador to the UN, and the subsequent impact on the Jewish community, the WJC New York office arranged for a private meeting between Ambassador Young and prominent American Jewish leaders, in August 1979. The meeting, which sought to alleviate growing Black-Jewish tensions in the United States, was held at the American Mission to the United Nations. The following year, a similar meeting was arranged between a WJC delegation and Ambassador Donald McHenry who succeeded Ambassador Young at the UN.

Concern with UN matters is also manifested through the American Section UN Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Norma Levitt. Thus, on November 29th, 1979, the day the UN set aside as Palestine Day, the Section UN Committee screened for the benefit of more than 50 Jewish NGOs the propaganda film produced by the UN, "Palestinians do have Rights". The screening enabled Jewish NGOs to familiarize themselves with the content of the film while avoiding participation in UN observances held in connection with Palestine Day.

Through the Branch, the WJC has continued to enjoy close and harmonious relations with its affiliate in Canada, the Canadian Jewish Congress. The CJC has been most cooperative in all fields of WJC endeavour, notably in political activities, religious affairs, the Soviet Jewry question, humanitarian interventions, and UN matters. Most recently, in May 1980, the WJC North American Director spoke before the Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Toronto on the present condition of the Jewish Diaspora.

The wide scope of activities of the Section's Academic Committee -- under the chairmanship of Mr. Jacob Katzman -- are listed in detail in the section on cultural activities in this report. The Academic Committee has co-sponsored discussions and seminars with such bodies as the Center for Inter-American Relations; Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies; International House, New York; International House, Chicago; Brooklyn College; The Graduate Theological Union (which is a consortium of nine Christian seminaries in and around San Francisco); the office of the Mayor of New York; the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. The Academic Committee, in the period under review, produced six issues of its publication, Survey of Current Jewish Research.

Wide press coverage was given in the United States to an important Louis Harris poll undertaken for Mr. Edgar Bronfman, which contradicted the impression in some quarters that Israel's recent policies have strained relations with the United States to the point where future economic and military assistance could be in serious doubt. The survey showed that, despite wide criticism of some of the policies of the present Israel government, there has been no erosion or decrease in American public support of Israel; on the contrary, it has actually increased. The poll indicated that there is stronger sentiment than ever in recent times among the American people for increased military and economic support for Israel.

The Youth Advisory Committee of the WJC North American Branch held its first meeting in September 1978, in Atlantic City, N.J., with the participation of 35 youth representatives from some 15 organizations in the US and Canada. Also present were the Secretary-General; Mr. Sam Norich, a WJC Vice-President, and young professional staff members of the WJC New York office. In February 1980, the Committee held its second general meeting.

All the participants expressed their feelings of isolation with regard to other Jewish youth organizations, and welcomed the establishment of a mechanism enabling them to meet on a regular basis to exchange viewpoints and ideas. From the WJC they requested detailed information on the situation of Jewish communities in the world today and assistance to the Committee in organizing conferences and seminars on Jewish communities and Jewish problems throughout the world.

From the end of October to the beginning of November 1980, a Jewish youth delegation whose American participants were assembled by the Youth Advisory Committee, visited Austria in response to an invitation issued by the Jewish Welcome Service and the Austrian Education Ministry in order to acquaint themselves with the current conditions of the Austrian Jewish community, particularly as these relate to the need of its young people. The delegation, which also included youth representatives from Britain and Israel, met with leaders of the Jewish community, the Austrian Federal Chancellor and President, as well as the resident Ambassadors of Israel and the United States.

In August 1978, the WJC New York office moved into new premises at One Park Avenue. For many years it had been located in the American Jewish Congress' Stephen Wise Congress House, reflecting the warm relationship between the WJC and one of its founding organizations.

Caribbean

As in previous years, Mr. Lavy M. Becker, Chairman of the WJC Commission on Small Communities, has kept close contact with the small and dispersed Jewish communities of the Caribbean area.

In the spring of 1975 Mr. Becker visited the communities of Cuba, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic.

In 1977, Mr. Becker undertook an extensive visit to Barbados, Surinam, Jamaica, St. Thomas, and Cuba, where he discussed with local Jewish leaders means of dealing with problems particular to their respective communities. Intensified contacts between the Caribbean communities and the WJC and among the communities themselves were also considered.

The Canadian Jewish Congress continued to send annual shipments of Passover supplies to the Cuban Jewish community. These are of considerable financial and moral support to the Jews of that country.

Latin America

The Latin American Jewish Congress, which is the Latin American Branch of the WJC, continued to fulfil its unchallenged role as the roof organization of the Jewish communities of the vast region stretching from Cape Horn to Mexico, a task made all the more difficult by the political and social characteristics of the area.

Ing. Gregorio Faigón served as President of the LAJC throughout the period under review, with the Presidents of Argentina's DAIA and of the Jewish Confederation of Brazil as Vice-Presidents.

In January 1978 Mr. Marc Turkow retired as Executive Director of the LAJC after more than twenty years of outstanding service. He was succeeded by Mr. Manuel Tenenbaum, a former President of the Central Jewish Committee of Uruguay. Dr. Paúl Warszawski continued to serve as Assistant Director.

The LAJC met yearly in plenary session and its subsidiary organs continued to meet regularly during the period under consideration, reviewing developments with regard to the situation of Jewish communities in the region and exchanging views concerning coordinated action in the fight against anti-Semitism, the struggle for Israel's security, and the rights of Soviet Jewry. They also surveyed the internal situation of the communities and examined means of strengthening Jewish life and commitment among the younger generation. An emergency plenary session was convoked in December 1975, in the wake of the Zionism-equals-racism resolution adopted by the United Nations the previous month.

Several plenary sessions were attended and addressed by leaders of the WJC, including the President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary-General. A number of visits to Latin American communities were undertaken by officers of the WJC, who had discussions with communal and Zionist leaders and met with a number of non-Jewish personalities as well. Notable among these visits were those of Mr. Philip M. Klutznick (then Chairman of the Governing Board) and the Treasurer, Mr. Sol Kanee, to

Buenos Aires in October 1976; of Mr. Kanee and Dr. Goldmann to Caracas and Mr. Klutznick to Santiago de Chile during that same month; of Dr. Riegner to Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Caracas in November/December 1978; and of Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman to Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santiago de Chile, Caracas, and Mexico City, in August 1980.

The two colloquia on cultural pluralism organized by the LAJC during the period under consideration (see section of this report dealing with cultural activities), which evoked great interest in Jewish and non-Jewish circles, were of particular significance in a region where the principle of cultural pluralism is not deeply rooted.

Similarly, the encounters of Jewish intellectuals and the publication of the magazine Coloquio are responses to the particular situation in Latin America, where -- perhaps more than anywhere else -- Jewish intellectuals are alienated from Jewish life.

An outstanding communal event in the period under review was the Seventh Conference of Latin American Jewish Communities, held under the joint auspices of the LAJC and the WZO. This Conference -- the first of its kind in eight years, was held in Sao Paulo in November 1980 and drew some 400 delegates from throughout the region.

The opening session of the Conference was addressed by WJC Acting President Edgar M. Bronfman; WJC Chairman Arieh L. Dulzin; Ing. Gregorio Faigón, President of the LAJC; and Professor José Meiches, President of the Jewish Confederation of Brazil. Other major speeches delivered by overseas guests included, on behalf of the WJC, those of Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner; WJC Vice-Presidents Dr. Arthur Hertzberg and Kalman Sultanik; Mr. Itzhak Harkavi, until recently Head of the WJC Cultural Department; and Mr. Israel Singer, Director of the Congress' North American Branch; and, on behalf of the WZO, Messrs. Avraham Schenker and Jacques Torczyner.

There were round-table discussions and symposia devoted to the Jewish world in the 80s, Israel and the Middle East, the political situation of the Jewish communities in Latin America, Jewish education, as well as a special plenary session on Soviet Jewry. The Final Declaration of the Conference underlined identification with Israel as the religious, spiritual, and cultural centre of the Jewish world and assured support for the Israel government's efforts at achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East. The Declaration condemned terrorism and, recalling the historic commitment of the Jewish people to the cause of human rights, expressed the hope that these rights would be restituted in

those parts of the world where they were constantly subject to gross violations. In its condemnation of anti-Semitism, the document called attention to the fact that anti-Semitic manifestations did not always meet with an adequate response on the part of public authorities. The document also endorsed the efforts undertaken for a new relationship with the Christian Churches in an atmosphere of equality and mutual understanding. Finally, the Declaration called for the creation of a creative Jewish identity in Latin America.

In a region as vast as Latin America, contact between the LAJC and its far-flung member communities is of great importance. The LAJC President, Director, and Assistant Director have tried to maintain such personal contact through visits to a number of communities, including the annual conventions or conferences of member communities. In order to further ongoing coordination among the communities of the northern part of Latin America, discussions were begun on the possibility of opening an LAJC branch office in Caracas; due to budgetary restrictions, however, it has not been possible to bring these plans to fruition.

The LAJC continues to publish its fortnightly news bulletin, OJI, which has a circulation of over 7500, not only in Latin America but also in Spain and among Spanish-readers in North America, Israel, and the Balkans. OJI serves as a major link among the Latin American communities.

The LAJC has also continued its ongoing cooperation with the Latin American Student Zionist Federation (FUSLA), and has supported its activities in various domains.

Finally, mention should be made of the LAJC's Human Rights Award, which is bestowed yearly on a Latin American public figure who has distinguished himself in this domain.

Europe

The European Branch of the WJC has a constituency to which belong the representative Jewish bodies of the Jewish communities of Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia, and there exist WJC sections in France and Belgium.

In France, the WJC French Section represents more than 20 nationwide French Jewish organizations as well as all the major Jewish communities and Consistoires apart from the Consistoire of Paris. In Belgium, the former WJC Belgian Section has merged with the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations, thus creating a larger base for the WJC in the community.

Close contacts are maintained with Eastern European communities who are as yet not formally members, but who attend European meetings regularly as observers: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Republic of Germany, Hungary, and Poland. (As noted elsewhere in the report, Hungary has now applied for full membership).

Representatives of the European branches of the international organizations in associate status with the Congress also regularly attend meetings of the Branch.

The European Branch has met on a regular basis in London (1975), in The Hague and Madrid (1976), in Milan (1977), in Brussels (1978), in Copenhagen (1979), and in Paris (1980).

The late Lord Fisher of Camden, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, served as Chairman of the European Branch until his election as Chairman of the Governing Board, at the General Council meeting in Washington in 1977, at which time Dr. Maurice Grynfogel, Chairman of the French Section of the Congress, was elected Chairman of the Branch.

The following Jewish leaders served as Vice-Chairmen of the Branch: for the period 1975-1978, Me David Lambert (France), and Me Alexis Goldschmidt (Belgium); and from 1978 on, Mr. Greville Janner, MP (Great Britain), Mr. Jean Nordmann (Switzerland), Mr. Werner Nachmann (Federal German Republic), Dr. Lavoslav Kadelburg (Yugoslavia), and Dr. Bruno Kaplan (Sweden).

At its regular meetings, the European Branch surveyed current international problems, notably those relating to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Economic Community, the Council of Europe, Soviet Jewry, the Arab boycott, the growing manifestation of anti-Semitism in Europe, the situation of Jewish communities in distress, and Christian-Jewish relations. The Branch has also dealt with a number of organizational questions, including cooperation with the European Council of Jewish Community Services, the establishment of a European Youth Advisory Committee, and the specific cultural needs of the small communities within the Branch.

Dr. Stephen J. Roth served, as in previous periods, as Executive Director of the European Branch. In May 1979, Dr. Roth asked the Chairman of the European Branch and the international officers to be allowed to resign from this position so that he could devote himself exclusively to his work as Director of the Congress research arm, the Institute of Jewish Affairs, which position he had held concurrently for 12 years. After consultation with the international officers and a

special meeting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the European Branch and the Secretary-General, it was decided to recommend to the Executive meeting in Chicago in November 1979, to appoint Mr. Daniel Lack, Legal Adviser of the Congress in Geneva, as Dr. Roth's successor. The Executive approved this recommendation and appointed Mr. Lack as Executive Director. Dr. Roth agreed to remain Director of the WJC in the UK, and to accept responsibility for coordinating activities in connection with the problem of Soviet Jewry and the question of anti-Semitism in Europe.

In order to intensify and facilitate the coordination of activities of the European communities, the European Branch established a number of regional committees, notably a Committee on anti-Semitism, under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Martin Savitt (UK), and Mr. Jean Pierre-Bloch (France), and a Committee for EEC Affairs, whose chairmanship is rotated among the Jewish communities of the nine EEC countries corresponding to the rotation of chairmanship within the European Community. The activities of these committees are extensively reported on in relevant sections of this report.

The harmonious relations the Branch enjoys with all its member communities should be underlined. Particularly gratifying is the readiness with which member communities follow its lead and implement suggestions whenever approached.

A European Youth Advisory Committee was constituted at the end of April 1977 at a meeting at the Avivim Cultural Centre near Paris. 40 youth representatives from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia attended this meeting. WUJS was also represented. The Committee has since held a number of Steering Committee meetings as well as one other general session. The European Youth Advisory Committee was instrumental in the convening of the December 1980 Youth Conference on Intolerance in Europe and its representatives took an active part in the proceedings. A delegation drawn from the Youth Advisory Committee attended the Convention of the Coalition on Alternatives in Jewish Education at the beginning of 1980 in the United States, with the purpose of initiating similar programmes in Europe.

The European Branch also organized, at periodic intervals, meetings of various European Jewish information offices on the Middle East. The cooperation thus engendered proved to be extremely useful.

Contact with member communities was also maintained by visits to the communities by the President of the organization, the Chairman of the European Branch, the Executive Director of the Branch, and other officers of the Congress. Mr. Michael Fidler, Chairman of the Organization Commission, and Mr. Lavy Becker, Chairman of the Small Communities Commission, repeatedly undertook missions to the communities. Congress officers attended a number of annual meetings or conferences of member communities.

The European Branch has actively serviced member communities, when requested to do so, in various ways. A notable example was the request of the Spanish Jewish community for WJC assistance in its negotiations with the Spanish authorities concerning proposed changes in the draft Spanish Constitution relating to religious freedom and the intended legislation on religious communities. The WJC Legal Adviser helped the community in elaborating its proposals and took part in meetings with the competent government officials. The major points contained in the community's proposals have been incorporated into the appropriate legislative documents.

As the representative in the WJC of the largest Jewish community in Western Europe, it is only natural that the French Section should play, as it has done for many years, a very important role. The French Section has continued in its very dynamic programming activities. As in the past, the Section organized a series of regional encounters in the various French provinces each year, in which large numbers of representatives of local communities of the region participated. Constant contact is maintained by the Paris office with the local communities and branches of the Section. The Section also continued with its intensive cultural activities, mainly in the provinces, in addition to the highly successful Colloquia, which have become one of the major cultural events in the community.

At the end of 1980, Mr. Armand Kaplan, who served with great distinction as Secretary-General of the French Section for several decades, retired from service in the Congress. Mr. Serge Cwajgenbaum, Deputy Secretary-General of the Section, succeeded him as Secretary-General.

Cooperation and coordination have continued in various spheres between the French Section of the WJC and the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF). The WJC has been especially pleased with the close cooperation established in recent months with the authorities of CRIF in matters pertaining to the European Economic Community and the resulting coordinated action. This has encouraged Congress leaders to pursue further steps toward closer ties between the organizations.

Israel

Pursuant to a decision of the WJC Executive, the headquarters of the Congress' Israel Branch were transferred from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem in February 1980, thus underlining further the WJC's commitment to Jerusalem as the centre of the spiritual life and aspirations of the Jewish people and the unity and integrity of the city as the capital of the State of Israel.

Mr. Itzhak Korn served as Chairman of the Israel Branch until November 1978, at which time Dr. S. Zalman Abramov was elected to succeed him. Dr. Natan Lerner has continued as Executive Director of the Branch, and was joined in January 1980 by Mr. Denis Diamond, formerly Executive Director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, who was appointed Associate Director of the Israel Branch.

The Israel Branch continued to meet regularly; a number of its meetings were briefed by guests from abroad, including members of the WJC Executive, leaders of the regional Branches, and senior WJC officials. On the occasion of their visits to Israel, the WJC leaders also met with political and other leaders of Israeli life.

The Israel Branch, which is composed of nearly all the political parties in the country, reflects the relative strength of these parties in the Knesset. Consequently, its composition changed following the Israeli general elections of May 1977. In an attempt to involve other outstanding Israelis in the activities of the Branch, a WJC Advisory Council in Israel was established, composed of -- in addition to representatives of the political parties affiliated to the Branch -- Israeli personalities prominent in intellectual life, education, literature, science, and business. High among the concerns of the Advisory Council were international affairs, Israel-Diaspora relations, and Soviet Jewry. About 100 personalities attended the founding meeting of the Council, which took place in March 1978 and in which the WJC President and Secretary-General participated. Although the Advisory Council as a whole has not continued to meet regularly, ongoing contacts and collaboration have been maintained with many of its members.

In addition to representing the Jews of Israel in the Congress family, the Israel Branch has always had a much wider role assuring ongoing contact between the WJC and Israeli authorities -- notably the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education -- the World Zionist Organization, and other public bodies.

A particularly important task of the Israel Branch is the active promotion of Diaspora consciousness among Israelis, particularly among educators and the younger generation. Notable in this regard were the annual seminars -- consisting of weekly lectures given over a two-month period -- on Jewish communities in the world, organized by the Israel Branch in cooperation with the Tel-Aviv municipality. Mention should also be made of the three-week exhibition on the WJC mounted by the Israel Branch in the summer of 1976, in the framework of the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Congress. Held at the Youth City sponsored by the Tel-Aviv municipality, the exhibition was visited by hundreds of thousands of people. Also of note was the publication, in Hebrew, of books dealing with Italian and Libyan Jewries.

In its efforts to further Diaspora consciousness in Israel, the Israel Branch has also cooperated with the Ministry of Education, the WZO, the Jerusalem municipality, WIZO, and, last but not least, Beth Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora.

An important example of the close cooperation between the Israel Branch and Beth Hatefutsoth were the seminars organized at Beth Hatefutsoth, also with the collaboration of the WZO, in the summer of 1980, for participants from throughout the world. The fifty-four seminars -- conducted in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Hebrew -- were attended by more than 1800 participants aged 15 to 25, from the US, Britain, South Africa, Australia, France, Belgium, Morocco, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Turkey, Iran, Yugoslavia, Italy, and Israel.

The Israel Branch is also concerned with international affairs. It maintains contact with the diplomatic representatives of several countries, with whom matters pertaining to their respective Jewish communities are from time to time discussed. The Branch is also frequently briefed by Israel government officials on topics of current interest to Israel and world Jewry. Finally, the Chairman and Executive Director of the Branch are invited to participate in discussions of Knesset committees on subjects including Jewish cultural life in the USSR, anti-Semitism, and legislation regarding religious liberty in Israel.

In the field of interfaith relations, the Israel Branch cooperates closely with the Israel Interfaith Committee, and the Executive Director of the Branch continues to play a leading role in the annual Spanish-Israeli encounters organized by the Madrid Centre for Judeo-Christian Studies.

The Hebrew quarterly, Gesher, continues to appear under the auspices of the Israel Branch, as does Batfutsot, a monthly publication containing news concerning the Jewish communities of the Diaspora, intended for press, radio, and television reporters as well as for members of the Knesset and other leaders of Israeli life.

Israel Report, produced fortnightly by the Executive Director of the Branch, is an English-language survey of the Israeli press, which is particularly appreciated. It is distributed to WJC member organizations throughout the world, as well as to other interested groups and individuals.

The Youth Advisory Committee of the WJC Israel Branch represents the four major youth organizations in the country: the Council of Youth Movements (including all the chalutzic groups), the Dor Hemshech division of the WZO, the Israeli Students' Organization, and the World Union of Jewish Students. It has met a number of times and some of its projects have been implemented with the help of the Cultural Department.

South East Asia and the Far East

Under the auspices of the WJC and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, in the summer of 1975 Dr. Arthur Hertzberg, Vice-President of the WJC, undertook a lecture tour of Jewish communities in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Thailand. During his travels, Dr. Hertzberg also met with the Australian Prime Minister and with US diplomatic representatives and various foreign correspondents. As a result of Dr. Hertzberg's visit, the Jewish Association of Thailand formally affiliated to the WJC.

During the period under consideration, the WJC strengthened its cooperation with the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, notably in the revival of the Federation of Jewish Communities of South East Asia and the Far East, which is administered by ECAJ. In March 1976, on behalf of the Federation, the Director of the United Jewish Education Board of Melbourne undertook an extensive visit to assess the religious and cultural needs of scattered Jewish communities in the Far East, including Manila, Bangkok, Taipei, Bombay, and Singapore.

On the basis of the report submitted following this visit and after further consultations with the communities concerned, the Melbourne Jewish United Education Board was asked to establish a pedagogical centre to service the communities in Hong Kong, Manila, Bangkok, Taipei, and Singapore. It was also decided to provide each of the communities with a small Jewish library for children. The assistance given by the Melbourne Education Board was greatly appreciated by the communities concerned. The WJC supported these efforts with financial and other assistance and cooperated with the WZO and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, in this field.

With a view toward establishing contact with government officials and helping to revitalize the Indian Jewish community, Dr. Joachim Schneeweiss, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and of the Federation of Jewish Communities of South East Asia and the Far East, visited India on behalf of the Congress from May 9th to 14th, 1978, on his way to attend the Governing Board meeting in Israel.

From August 27th to 29th, 1978, the WJC President visited New Zealand, where he met with Jewish community and B'nai B'rith leaders in Auckland and Wellington. His stay in Wellington also included discussions with Prime Minister Muldoon, the leader of the opposition, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The WJC President then proceeded to Australia, where he was hosted by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and spent ten days visiting communal institutions in Canberra, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, and Sydney. In Canberra, accompanied by ECAJ President Dr. Schneeweiss,

Mr. Klutznick met with Australian Prime Minister Fraser. He also met with the Premiers of Victoria and New South Wales and with the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Zelman Cowen.

In May 1979, on behalf of the WJC South East Asian Bureau, the Director of Melbourne's United Jewish Education Board again visited the Jewish communities of Singapore, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Bangkok, where he discussed with the community leaders the existing educational facilities and programmes and provided expert advice.

In early 1980, Mr. Joe Gersh, Community Relations Chairman of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry -- which administers the WJC South East Asian Bureau -- visited the Jewish communities of Hong Kong, Singapore, Taipei, Manila, Bangkok, and New Zealand in connection with WJC/ECAJ work in that region. During his visits, Mr. Gersh coordinated arrangements for a conference of Jewish communities of the area, to be held in Hong Kong.

The Conference of Jewish communities of the Asia-Pacific area took place in Hong Kong on May 10th and 11th, 1980, with the participation of representatives of the Jewish communities of India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, the Philippines, Japan, and Korea, as well as delegations from New Zealand and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. The keynote speakers were Mr. Moshe Raviv, Israel's Ambassador to the Philippines, and Mr. Isi J. Leibler, CBE, President of ECAJ. The WJC was represented by Mr. Lavy M. Becker, Chairman of the Congress' Commission on Small Communities, who addressed the opening session and chaired the session on education.

The delegates established the Asia Pacific Jewish Association and elected Mr. Leibler as Chairman. The Association will have a permanent secretariat in Australia, toward whose costs the communities concerned pledged themselves to contribute.

The Conference decided to intensify the educational activities of Mr. Kurt Rathner, Director of Melbourne's United Jewish Education Board, whose past work in the region was greatly appreciated. A regional newspaper was foreseen, as well as regionally coordinated youth activities, speaking tours, and availability of religious functionaries and other requirements. Addressing the meeting, Mr. Leibler underlined the responsibility of ECAJ, through its affiliation to the WJC, to assist Jewish communities in the region.

YOUTH

The Governing Board, at its meeting in Paris, February 22nd - 24th, 1976, resolved:

- to establish a permanent WJC Commission on the Young Generation composed of representatives of the regional Youth Advisory Committees in addition to experts and lay leaders selected by the WJC Executive, - this Commission to "embody the distinctive qualities of the Congress: its universal scope, its quest for a world Jewish community and for the full involvement of the Jewish people in the world at large, and its forward-looking orientation";
- that there be established in each regional Branch of the WJC General Council a Youth Advisory Committee;
- that the Youth Advisory Committee in each regional Branch shall be charged with the task of nominating, subject to the approval of the regional Branch of the General Council, the region's representative on the Governing Board, and the region's representatives on the General Council;
- that it be left to each regional Branch of the General Council to determine its own method for selecting the members of its Advisory Committee.

In compliance with this resolution, regional Youth Advisory Committees were established in Israel, Europe, and North America. The activities of these regional Committees are described in this report under the regional activities. For local reasons, the establishment of a similar Committee in Latin America was delayed. In March 1979, the WJC Executive convened the first meeting of the Commission on the Young Generation in Geneva with the participation of the representatives of the regional Youth Committees, the President, the Secretary-General, and several Vice-Presidents.

In the general deliberations, the Commission discussed in broad overview the major trends that would contribute to the shape of the world in which the younger generation would come to leadership. The Commission, inter alia, called for the elaboration of a "Declaration on the Rights and Obligations of Jewish Youth", and considered some twenty specific projects that had been submitted for its review. These included a proposal for a summer institute of Jewish studies in Europe, support for Project Areivim, and development of a conference series on topics of Jewish concern.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the principal concern of the youth representatives at the Commission meeting, particularly of those from North America and Israel, focussed on internal Jewish issues, rather than the external front.

Unfortunately, budgetary considerations have necessitated a curtailment of the youth programme.

The WJC has continued to show interest in the Jewish students movement. It has kept in close contact with the World Union of Jewish Students as well as with many of its regional and national branches. The Congress has given financial support within the limits of its resources.

In anticipation of the UN's designation of 1985 as "International Youth Year" (IYY), the WJC has acted early to ensure appropriate representation in preparatory bodies being formed in connection with the Year. In so doing, the aim is to facilitate the articulation of Jewish youth concerns during observance of IYY, as well as minimizing, to the extent it can, any politicization or diversion of the IYY from its proper concerns.



WJC OFFICEHOLDERS
(as of December 1980)

WJC EXECUTIVE

Founder-President: Dr. Nahum Goldmann (Paris-Jerusalem)
President (on leave): Mr. Philip M. Klutznick (Washington-Chicago)
President (acting): Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman (New York)
Vice-Presidents: Dr. Nessim D. Gaon (Geneva)
Rabbi Dr. Arthur Hertzberg (Englewood, NJ)
Mr. Samuel Norich (New York)
Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz (Orange, NJ)
Mr. Kalman Sultanik (New York)
Chairman, General Council: Mr. Akiva Lewinsky (Kibbutz Maayan Zvi)
Chairman, Governing Board: (vacant)*
Chairman, World Zionist Organization: Mr. Leon A. Dulzin (Tel-Aviv)
Treasurer: Mr. Sol Kanee (Winnipeg)
Co-Treasurers: Mrs. Raya Jaglom (Tel-Aviv)
Mr. Mendel Kaplan (Braamfontein)
Regional Chairmen:
North America: Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman (New York)
Latin America: Mr. Gregorio Faigón (Buenos Aires)
Europe: Dr. Maurice Grynfogel (Toulouse)
Israel: Dr. S. Zalman Abramov (Tel-Aviv)
Secretary-General: Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner (Geneva)
Observers: Mr. Jack Spitzer (Washington) (B'nai B'rith
Dr. Daniel Thursz (Washington) International)
By standing invitation: Mrs. Thea Hacker (Basel) (International
Council of Jewish Women)
The Hon. Greville E. Janner, QC, MP (London)
(Board of Deputies of British Jews)

* following the death of Lord Fisher of Camden (London)

* * *

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr. Monroe Abbey, QC (Montreal)
Dr. Moisés Goldman (Buenos Aires)
Rabbi Dr. Israel Goldstein (Jerusalem)
Professor Aryeh Tartakower (Jerusalem)

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS

International Affairs Department: Mr. Armand Kaplan (Paris)
Institute of Jewish Affairs: Dr. Stephen J. Roth (London)
Information Department: Mr. Max Melamet (New York)
Honorary Consultant on
Cultural Affairs: Mr. Itzhak Harkavi (Jerusalem)
Executive Director,
North American Branch: Mr. Israel Singer (New York)
Executive Director,
Latin American Branch: Mr. Manuel Tenenbaum (Buenos Aires)
Executive Director,
European Branch: Mr. Daniel Lack (Geneva)
Executive Director,
Israel Branch: Dr. Natan Lerner (Jerusalem)

CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE
STANDING COMMISSIONS OF THE WJC GOVERNING BOARD

International Affairs Commission:
Chairman: Maître Alexis Goldschmidt (Brussels)
Co-Chairman: Dr. Schneier Levenberg (London)
Organization Commission:
Chairman: Mr. Michael M. Fidler, JP (London)
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Izak Varsat-Warszawski (Paris)
Cultural Commission:
Chairman: Dr. Leon Kronitz (Montreal)
Vice-Chairman: Rabbi Wolfe Kelman (New York)
Small Communities Commission:
Chairman: Mr. Lavy M. Becker (Montreal)
Publications Commission:
Chairman: Mr. Jacques Torczyner (New York)
Personnel Policy Commission:
Chairman: Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson (New York)

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS CONSTITUENTS (as of December 1980)

A. National member organizations

Argentina

Delegación de Asociaciones
Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA)

Aruba

Congregation Beth Israel

Australia

Executive Council of Australian
Jewry

Austria

Bundesverband der Israelitischen
Kultusgemeinden Oesterreichs

Barbados

Jewish Community Center

Belgium

Comité de Coordination des Orga-
nisations Juives de Belgique

Bolivia

Comité Central Israelita de
Bolivia

Brazil

Confederação Israelita do
Brasil

Burma

Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue
Committee

Canada

Canadian Jewish Congress

Chile

Comité Representativo de la Colec-
tividad Israelita de Chile

Colombia

Confederación de Asociaciones
Judías de Colombia (COAJ)

Costa Rica

Centro Israelita Sionista
de Costa Rica

Cuba

Comisión Coordinadora de las
Sociedades Religiosas Hebreas de Cuba

Curaçao

Jewish Community Council

Cyprus

The Jewish Community of Cyprus

Denmark

Det Mosaiske Troessamfund i
København

Dominican Republic

Parroquia Israelita de la República
Dominicana

Ecuador

Asociación Israelita de Quito

El Salvador

Comunidad Israelita de El Salvador

Ethiopia

Asmara Jewish Community

Finland

Suomen Juutalaisten Seurakuntien
Keskusneuvosto

France

Section Française du Congrès Juif
Mondial *

Federal Republic of Germany

Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland

Great Britain

Board of Deputies of British Jews

Greece

Central Board of Jewish Communities
in Greece

Guatemala

Consejo Central de la Comunidad
Judía de Guatemala

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS CONSTITUENTS

National member organizations (cont'd)

Honduras

Comunidad Hebrea de Tegucigalpa

Hong Kong

Ohel Leah Synagogue

India

The Central Jewish Board of India

Iran

Andjoman Kalimian Tehran

Ireland

Jewish Representative Council of
Ireland

Israel

Israel Section of the World Jewish
Congress

Italy

Unione delle Comunità Israelitiche
Italiane

Jamaica

United Congregation of Israelites

Japan

Jewish Community of Japan

Kenya

Nairobi Hebrew Congregation

Luxembourg

Consistoire Israélite de Luxembourg

Malta

The Jewish Community of Malta

Mexico

Comité Central Israelita de México

Monaco

Association Cultuelle Israélite de
Monaco

Morocco

Conseil des Communautés Israélites
du Maroc

Netherlands

Nederlands-Israëliëtisch Kerk-
genootschap

New Zealand

United Synagogues of New Zealand

Nicaragua

Congregación Israelita de Nicaragua

Norway

Det Mosaiske Trossamfund

Panama

Consejo Central Comunitario Hebreo
de Panamá

Paraguay

Consejo Representativo Israelita
del Paraguay (CRIP)

Peru

Asociación Judía del Perú

Philippines

Jewish Community of the Philippines

Portugal

Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa

Rumania

Federația Comunităților Evreiești
din Republica Socialistă România

South Africa

South African Jewish Board of Deputies

Spain

Federación de Comunidades
Israelitas de Espana

Surinam

Nederlands Portugees Israëliëtische
Gemeente in Suriname

Sweden

Judiska Församlingen i Stockholm

Switzerland

Schweizerischer Israelitischer
Gemeindebund

Thailand

The Jewish Association of Thailand

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS CONSTITUENTS

National member organizations (cont'd)

Uruguay

Comité Central Israelita del
Uruguay

United States

American Section of the World
Jewish Congress **

Venezuela

Confederación de Asociaciones
Israelitas de Venezuela (CAIV)

Virgin Islands

The Hebrew Congregation of
St. Thomas

Yugoslavia

Savez Jevrejskih Opština Jugoslavije

Zaire

Communauté Israélite du Shaba

Zambia

Council for Zambian Jewry

Zimbabwe

Central African Jewish
Board of Deputies

* Comprising: Consistoire du Bas-Rhin, Consistoire du Haut-Rhin, Consistoire de la Moselle, Consistoire régional Alpes-Provence, Consistoire régional Champagne-Ardenne, Consistoire régional du Sud-Ouest, Association des artistes peintres et sculpteurs juifs de France, Association des écrivains et journalistes juifs de France, Association des Juifs originaires d'Algérie, Association des Juifs originaires du Maroc, Association des Juifs originaires de Tunisie, Cercle Bernard Lazare, Comité pour la langue et la culture yiddich en France, Conseil représentatif du judaïsme traditionaliste de France, Fédération des anciens combattants et volontaires juifs étrangers, Fédération des sociétés juives de France, Fédération française de la WIZO, Fédération séphardite mondiale (Section française), Femmes Pionnières de France, Hashomer Hatsaïr, Identité et Dialogue, Mouvement juif libéral de France, Mouvement pour la liberté du commerce, Mouvement sioniste de France, Mouvement sioniste des originaires d'Afrique du Nord (SIONA), Union des étudiants juifs de France, Union des israélites sépharadites de France, Union des juifs progressistes, Union des médecins, dentistes et pharmaciens amis d'Israël, Union des sociétés juives de France, Union libérale israélite, Union sioniste de France, and most of the Jewish communities of the French provinces.

** Comprising: Americans for Progressive Israel, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish League for Israel, American Mizrahi Women, American Sephardi Federation, Bnai Zion, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Emunah Women of America, Hadassah, Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation, Labor Zionist Alliance, Mizrahi-Hapoel Hamizrachi, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, Pioneer Women, Poale Agudath Israel of America, Rabbinical Assembly, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, United Synagogue of America, United Zionists-Revisionists of America-Herut USA, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, World Federation of Jews of Hungarian Descent (USA Division), Zionist Organization of America.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS CONSTITUENTS

B. International Organizations with special relationship

World Zionist Organization
B'nai B'rith International

C. Associated International Organizations

Brit Ivrit Olamit
Emunah - World Religious Women's Zionist Organization
Federación de Comunidades Judías de Centro América y Panamá (FEDECO)
Independent Zionist Movement
International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
International Council of Jewish Women
International Union of Mapam Parties
Mizrachi - Hapoel Hamizrachi World Organization
Skandinavisk Jødisk Ungdoms-Forbund (SJUF)
Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO)
World Confederation of United Zionists
World Conference of Synagogues and Kehiloth
World Executive of Herut - Hatzohar
World Federation of Hungarian Jews
World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans, and Camp Inmates
World Federation of Polish Jews
World Labor Zionist Movement
World Movement Pioneer Women-Na'amat
World OSE Union
World Sephardi Federation
World Union for Progressive Judaism
World Union of General Zionists
World Union of Jewish Journalists
World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS)
World Union of Poale Agudat Israel

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