

ANGLO-JEWISH ASSOCIATION
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ANNUAL REPORT - 1983/1984

1. INTRODUCTION

The Association's activities each year highlight the importance of its work and the need for as many people as possible to participate in its different spheres of influence and so contribute in one way or another to uphold the very real respect with which it is held, not only within the Jewish community, but also by many politicians and leaders from many walks of life in this country and worldwide. This regard for the Association was emphasised by Viscount Whitelaw in his address on Human Rights at an AJA Public Meeting this year. It was an acknowledgement by the Leader of the House of Lords and Deputy Prime Minister that the contribution made by this Association is important. (Details of this meeting are reported later). The respect and affection of the State of Israel towards the Association at the many meetings in London and Jerusalem have played a very real part in strengthening understanding between both countries. (A large-scale Public Meeting to discuss some of these problems was held this year with Lord Chalfont). The important work of helping our Jewish brethren in need in other parts of the world is also of concern to the AJA, particularly in the field of education. The absorption and aiding of refugees from countless countries by Israel is something we all must respect. The Association has also been concerned with problems of fanaticism within Great Britain, and has therefore held this year a series of large-scale Public Meetings to draw attention to the dangers of cold-blooded bureaucracy (Meeting on Eichmann, October 1983), and the problems of race relations (Meeting on Human Rights, May 1984).

1983 saw the inauguration of a new President, Mr. Clemens N. Nathan, who had formerly been Deputy President and now succeeded Dr. Basil Bard. This was a year of expansion in our Human Rights activities and more frequent Public Meetings on topics of contemporary importance both for the Jewish community and the general public, providing a full programme of events for our membership throughout the year. Furthermore, the Association's contacts overseas were maintained and developed in the course of the year, and our educational activities in making grants and loans to Jewish students, mainly from overseas but also from this country, has continued. There is increased liaison with other educational organisations in the Jewish community, both in Great Britain and worldwide.

2. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Our relations with the Alliance Israelite Universelle in France and the American Jewish Committee have been strengthened through the many personal visits of our President and other Honorary Officers to Europe and the United States in the course of the year. The President represented the Association at the Annual General Meeting of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, at which he had important discussions with their President Mr. Jules Braunschvig and other Honorary Officers, as well as with Mrs. Jean Kirkpatrick, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations. During his visit to Israel in May, the President had meetings at the British Embassy, the Israeli Foreign Ministry and a number of educational institutions with which the Association is involved. In July, the AJA will be represented at the Bi-Annual Meeting of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Claims Conference to be held in Jerusalem, which also marks the 20th Anniversary of the Memorial Foundation.

The Association's protest to the Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs that representation at the International Conference on Palestine would not be in the interest of this country should be highlighted, and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office has been very helpful on a number of other matters affecting Jews throughout the world. Frequent meetings on our educational and Human Rights work and on attitudes towards the State of Israel have taken place at the Israeli Embassy in London.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

The AJA is a member of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organisations, which has non-governmental status at the United Nations, and is constantly discussing and monitoring reports there. The Association presented a detailed document on Genocide for the updating of a study on Genocide by the United Nations Section on the Studies and Prevention of Discrimination in Geneva, and is grateful to those members of the AJA who contributed to this research. During the President's recent visit to Geneva, a number of meetings were arranged with specialised organisations in Human Rights as well as with the Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The Association has also been active in this country at the United Nations Association, and participated in its Annual General Council in Coventry in April, where it was represented by the President and Mr. David M. Jacobs, a member of the Council. The Association was also represented at the Conference of the World Organisation of Jews from Arab Countries in London earlier this year, at which the plight of Jewish refugees from Arab countries, and those still remaining there, was examined. The Association has continuously briefed Euro MPs and MPs on our Council on issues which are of concern, and thanks all those who have given helpful advice and guidance to the AJA in the course of the year. A number of informal meetings and discussions have been held with specialists on Human Rights, a number of whom are members of our Council, to examine the work of the AJA in this field. An analysis of infiltration into major political parties in this country was submitted to the Executive, and a document is being prepared for the Council on this subject.

4. EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE

Over sixty Jewish students at universities in this country are at present receiving substantial awards from the Association, apart from the grants given to students and institutions of higher education in Israel. The selection and administration of these grants and loans continues throughout the year.

A number of new members have been co-opted to the Education & Scholarships Committee during the year: Miss B. Barwell, an Honorary Officer of the Zionist Federation on the Education & Youth Committee of the Board of Deputies; Mrs. B. Harverd; Mrs. S. Loewe and Mrs. A. Blass, all of whom have considerable educational experience. There now exists closer co-operation between the respective Education Committees of the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Jewish Memorial Council. This helps to rationalise the distribution of grants, even though the terms of the trust funds of the two organisations are different. Our list of Jewish grant giving organisations in this country, which is in constant demand, is now in its third edition. A generous legacy received this year has enabled the Association to set up a special scholarship for students of Music and Art.

The direction of the Education Committee under Mr. Richard Moshi is most gratefully acknowledged by the Honorary Officers of the Association.

5. BRANDEIS BARDIN INSTITUTE CALIFORNIA - SCHOLARSHIPS 1984

These Scholarships are now being awarded in conjunction with the Jewish Memorial Council, whose President is Dr. Basil Bard. The recipients of this year's awards are: Mr. J. Brown, a student of Medicine at University College London; Miss D. Harverd, studying Law at Manchester University and Miss H. Samuel, a student of Experimental Psychology at Oxford University. The Institute are extremely impressed with the high standard and valuable contribution of AJA students each year.

6. EVELINA DE ROTHSCHILD SCHOOL, JERUSALEM

The AJA, the Jerusalem Municipality and the Evelina de Rothschild School, have now concluded and signed an agreement, resulting in rental being paid to the School by the Municipality and the undertaking of improvements and modernisation of the School's facilities. The final agreement was concluded with the personal negotiations of Mr. Edmund de Rothschild, a Vice-President of the Association, who represented us at the meetings in Jerusalem. A Public Committee has been set up in Jerusalem to concern itself with the future well-being of the School, and three of its members represent the AJA.

In May this year, the School held a Prize Giving Ceremony at which the guest of honour was our President. Two prizes were awarded from the Association: the Dr. Basil Bard Award for Science and the Charles Rubens Prize for English Literature. A number of other Honorary Officers and members of the Association have also visited the School. The valuable work of Mr. Garb in advising the Association and the support of Mayor Kollek in Jerusalem is appreciated by the AJA.

7. PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Association held a very well attended and widely publicised meeting in October on 'Eichmann Interrogated: A Case Study in Political & Psychological Tyranny', at the Royal Institute for International Affairs. This meeting was chaired by Lord Bethell MEP, and was addressed by Major Avner Less, who had been the interrogator of Adolf Eichmann. An address was also given by Sir Hugh Greene, OBE, former Director General of the BBC. The meeting coincided with the Bodley Head's publication of a translation of a book containing excerpts of the interrogations conducted by Major Less.

In April, a Public Meeting was held by the Association on 'How to Win the Peace in the Middle East: The Military and Political Options'. This meeting, which was held at the Institute of Directors, was also widely publicised both within and outside the community and was very well attended. An address was given by The Rt. Hon. Lord Chalfont, formerly Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, and also by Colonel Y. Lotan, Military Attache at the Israeli Embassy, with Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen Bt. giving the vote of thanks.

In May, a Public Meeting to highlight the need for greater awareness of Human Rights issues was held in the Brent Town Hall. The Leader of the House of Lords and Deputy Prime Minister Viscount Whitelaw spoke on 'Human Rights in Britain Today', and Lord Bethell MEP, Chairman of the Human Rights Group at the European Parliament, also gave an address. The meeting was chaired by the President, and Mr. Lewis Moss CC gave the vote of thanks.

8. BRAINS TRUST

As in previous years, the Association held a Brains Trust in June for the Rishon Multiple Sclerosis Aid Group. The AJA wishes to thank all those who took part in this very successful meeting. It is hoped that other members will take part in these meetings, which are much needed, next year.

9. MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A number of receptions to acquaint new members and others with the work of the Association have been held in the course of the year. There have been two at the home of the President, one at the home of the Treasurer and one at the home of Mr. & Mrs. P. Brandenburger in Northwood, which was jointly hosted with them by Mr. & Mrs. C. Heinemann, members of our Council. The Association is grateful to all of them for their work.

In July, there is to be a tour of Waddesdon Manor for our members, with a luncheon at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Jakobi in Stoke Mandeville. Mrs. Jakobi will also give an introductory talk on the Manor.

These activities require help from members, and those members able to assist should approach the Secretary.

10. COUNCIL MEETINGS

In February, a Council reception was held for the Ambassador of Israel, His Excellency Mr. Yehuda Avner, at the home of Mrs. Bella Wingate, a member of the Council. On this occasion, a presentation was made by the Honorary Officers to Dr. Basil Bard in appreciation of his work during his Presidency. The Hon. Ewen Montagu, a Vice-President of the AJA, proposed the vote of thanks.

A number of new nominees to the Council have been proposed, and their acceptance unanimously recommended by the Executive. They include: Mr. Spencer Batiste MP; Mr. Martin Brandon-Bravo MP, Sir Geoffrey Finsberg MP, Sir Arthur Gold CBE; Dr. Hyman Rose CBE; Mr. Michael Stern MP and Mr. David Sumberg MP.

The number of Council meetings was reduced to cope with the reduction in staff, but it is hoped to have more meetings for Council next year to discuss major issues facing world Jewry.

11. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met at frequent intervals in the course of the year. New co-options to the Committee were: Sir Alfred Sherman, Mr. D. Loewe and Mrs. A. Sieve. The President and Honorary Officers are appreciative of the devoted work of all members of the Committee.

12. FINANCE

The balance from the Finzi Bequest was received this year. A number of donations have also been received from Mr. H.S. Kehela, the Norah & Leslie Prince Charitable Trust, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rubens and Mr. Edmund de Rothschild TD. There has been a legacy from Mr. S.J.E. Joseph, the late brother of Mr. H.O. Joseph, one of our Vice-Presidents and a legacy from the late Miss S. Simon. Our Educational Trust Funds have been extended by a legacy from the late Miss C. Reizenstein and a donation from Professor Banesh Hoffman to the Jewish Education Aid Society loan funds. These contributions to our funds are greatly appreciated by the Association.

and enable us to continue with our important work.

The AJA is extremely grateful to its Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Richard Moss, for handling the very complex affairs of the Association.

13. CONGRATULATIONS

The Association extends its congratulations to Sir Alfred Sherman and to Sir Geoffrey Finsberg on their recent knighthoods, both of whom have been extremely helpful to the AJA. The election of Mr. Victor Lucas, a past President of the Association, to the Presidency of the United Synagogue, has delighted the Honorary Officers.

The AJA also congratulates its Secretary on her recent marriage.

14. OBITUARIES

The Association mourns the passing of Mr. Jack Barnett and of Council members Rabbi Dr. Leslie Edgar and Rabbi Dr. Van Der Zyl, all of whom will be sadly missed. The Association also mourns the passing of Mrs. Hilda Meyer, who had for many years worked for the AJA.

15. THE FUTURE

A full programme of events is being prepared for 1984/1985. This will include a number of Public Meetings, one of which will be addressed by Mme. Simone Veil in the Winter.

The AJA is a unique organisation representing individual views within the Jewish community and serving as a helpful platform for a wide range of political and religious opinions. There are many contemporary issues to which the AJA must address itself, and thus it will always fulfil an increasingly significant and much-needed role in matters affecting Human Rights, education and Israel and Diaspora Jewry. The membership, reflecting this development, has steadily increased throughout the year.

16. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The President wishes to thank the professional and voluntary staff, whose painstaking work has enabled its many activities to flourish over an extremely active year.

CLEMENS N. NATHAN
President

MRS. E. SALASNIK
Secretary

4th July 1984