

Western Europe

Great Britain

National Affairs

EVENTS IN 1982 WERE dominated by the Falklands crisis, which stretched from the Argentine invasion on April 2 until the British governor's return to Port Stanley on June 25. The political repercussions were swift and significant: Lord Carrington, the foreign secretary, and two of his ministers were forced to resign.

Though the loss of Carrington was widely regretted in Conservative party ranks, the standing of the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher did not suffer in any way. On the contrary, the government's prestige rose, as was shown in May, when local election results, flying in the face of all precedent, gave the Conservative party an increased number of seats. Even more startling was the government's standing in public opinion polls. Just before the Falklands campaign, a Gallop poll had indicated that the Liberal-Social Democratic alliance and the Labor party were each supported by 33 per cent of the public, while the Conservative party enjoyed 31.5 per cent of public support. By the end of the year the figures were 42 per cent for the Conservatives, 35 per cent for Labor, and 21 per cent for the Liberal-Social Democratic alliance.

Tory popularity was enhanced not only by military success in the Falklands, but also by the government's ability to cope with labor problems in the nationalized industries—railroads, mining, and the health services. Also helping to buttress the "Falklands factor" was the decline in the annual rate of inflation from 12 per cent at the beginning of the year to 6.3 per cent in December—the lowest figure in ten years. Bank base rates dropped from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. All this combined to fuel a consumer boom, since the real disposable income of most householders rose slightly. However, there was no check on the rise in unemployment. In December the number of people claiming unemployment benefits reached a post-war high of 3,063,026.

Support for the right-wing National Front party (NF) in local government elections fell to between one-half and one-quarter of 1978 levels. Jacob Gewirtz, director of the Board of Deputies of British Jews' defense and group relations department,

stated that a sharp reduction in the number of NF candidates (e.g., 47 in Greater London in 1982, compared with 598 in 1978) reflected not only a decline in NF's electoral appeal but also the NF's waning interest in the electoral process as against direct action. In January, Joseph Pierce, editor of the NF's youth division newspaper, *Bulldog*, was jailed for six months for publishing material likely to incite racial hatred; in June, Pierce polled only 547 votes in the Merton, Mitcham, and Morden parliamentary by-election. In September Robert Edwards was jailed for one year for contributing racist cartoons to *The Stormer*.

Relations with Israel

In February a more sympathetic British attitude toward Israel seemed to be developing when Great Britain voted with the Common Market nations against a United Nations general assembly resolution condemning Israel for its occupation of the Golan Heights. In March Foreign Secretary Carrington visited Israel to "look and learn," while at the same time defending the European Economic Community's [EEC] Venice declaration. In April Prime Minister Thatcher welcomed Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai in accordance with the Camp David agreement.

The atmosphere changed in April when Israeli ambassador Shlomo Argov was called to the foreign office to discuss reported arms sales by Israel to Argentina during the Falklands war. Argov denied the charges.

In May a foreign office spokesman labeled Israel's bombing of PLO bases in Lebanon "a further clear breach of the ceasefire, a serious infringement of Lebanese sovereignty, and a dangerous escalation of violence." In June Prime Minister Thatcher declared Britain's support for UN efforts to obtain a ceasefire in Lebanon; she condemned Israel's actions there, but also denounced PLO attacks across the border into Israel. The British government, she stated, believed that the principle of self-determination should be applied to both the Falklands situation and the problem of the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Thatcher condemned the assassination attempt of Ambassador Argov in London's Park Lane—the event which sparked Israel's invasion of Lebanon. In June Britain showed disapproval of the invasion by withdrawing an invitation to Israeli representatives who had been scheduled to attend a defense ministry exhibition at Aldershot. In July, in the wake of Israel's refusal to withdraw from Lebanon, Great Britain, together with the other EEC countries, placed an embargo on military sales to Israel. However, in August, Britain abstained on a UN security council resolution calling for an arms and military-aid embargo against the Jewish state. In the same month, Douglas Hurd, senior minister of state, informed Yoav Biran, a member of Israel's London embassy, that the casualties and damage inflicted by Israel in Lebanon were unacceptably high. In September Prime Minister Thatcher described the massacre of Palestinians in refugee camps in Beirut as a "barbaric act for which those responsible should be utterly condemned."

In September the British government welcomed U.S. president Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan, even while maintaining that it did not go far enough in

meeting the requirements for a Palestinian state or in recognizing the PLO's role in the peace process. In November newly-appointed foreign secretary Francis Pym stated at the Commonwealth Conference that the Arab League's Fez summit principles were insufficiently clear: "They failed to confirm explicitly Israel's right to live in peace and security in the context of a settlement which also met Palestinian aspirations . . . A clear statement of this kind is absolutely necessary if negotiations are to begin." In December Pym announced that Great Britain would send an 80-man armored reconnaissance unit to serve with the multinational, peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

In June Israel protested to the foreign office after Minister of State Hurd officially received Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's political head, as part of an Arab League delegation. In November an Arab League request that both Prime Minister Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Pym receive a PLO representative, who was due in London with other Arab League delegates, was turned down. The government reiterated its policy of limiting contacts with the PLO to lower-level British officials until the PLO renounced terrorism and recognized Israel's right to exist. In response, Morocco's foreign minister informed the British embassy in Rabat that the Arab League delegation would not visit London. In addition, Saudi Arabia indicated to Foreign Secretary Pym that his proposed visit to Riyadh in January 1983 would not be timely.

Labor's Middle East policy moved closer to that of the Conservatives. In May the national executive committee of the Labor party expressed deep concern over the "deteriorating situation" in the Middle East, pointing specifically to Israel's "repressive actions" and aggressive settlement policy on the West Bank. In November a detailed statement was issued by the Labor executive welcoming the Fez and Reagan initiatives, and supporting the right of Israel to live in peace and security and the Palestinians to have a state of their own.

In July the Liberal party passed a resolution recognizing the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and calling for the PLO to be involved in any future negotiations. For its part, the PLO was urged to recognize Israel's right to exist within the pre-1967 borders.

At its annual Brighton conference in September, the Trades Union Congress adopted a resolution condemning Israel for "death and destruction" in Lebanon, and affirming that "only the recognition of the natural rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination within an independent and sovereign state can bring peace and security to all states, including Israel, in the Middle East."

The Arab Lobby

In February an Institute of Jewish Affairs study of ten pro-Arab organizations concluded that Britain's pro-Arab lobby, despite the use of increasingly sophisticated propaganda techniques, had achieved little in the way of influencing public opinion or attracting support from the major political parties. There were those, however, who felt that the conclusion was premature.

In March pro-Arab MP's tabled a motion in Parliament deploring the closure of Bir Zeit University on the West Bank, and calling on the Israeli military authorities to restore academic freedom to Palestinian students. In May the Glasgow University student council twinned with the Bir Zeit University student organization. On May 15 two thousand PLO supporters massed in London's Trafalgar Square to celebrate "Palestine Day." In July pro-Arab advertisements were placed in the *Guardian* by the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding and in *The Times* by the League of Arab States' London office; the League also arranged for four MP's to visit Lebanon. Nearly 4,000 people attended a meeting centering on the theme "Let the Lebanese and Palestinians Live," which was held under the auspices of the Middle East councils of the Conservative, Labor, and Liberal parties.

Demonstrations protesting the Beirut refugee camp massacre included a march organized by the United Kingdom Muslim Solidarity Committee in London's Hyde Park, and a rally organized by the Action Committee Against Genocide in Lebanon in Blackburn.

In November an International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinians was marked in several cities.

During the autumn term, anti-Zionist motions were debated on many British university campuses, including Sussex, Aston, Manchester, Newcastle, Essex, and King's College, Cambridge. In December Board of Deputies education officer Clive Lawton indicated that 26 of the motions had been defeated. Anti-Zionist motions put forward at the December annual conference of the National Union of Students also failed to pass; the group continued to call for mutual recognition between Israel and the Arabs, and demanded that the PLO "renounce its avowed aim . . . to destroy the State of Israel."

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography

The Jewish population of Great Britain was estimated to be 350,000. Leading Jewish population centers were London, Manchester, Leeds, and Glasgow.

The number of synagogue marriages in 1981—1,180—was the lowest in the century, according to the Board of Deputies research unit. The figure compared with 1,222 marriages in 1980 and an average of 1,318 in the five-year period 1976–1980. The largest declines were in the Liberal synagogues (56 weddings in 1981, as compared with 71 in 1980 and an average of 80 in the 1976–1980 period) and the Sephardi congregations (24 weddings in 1981, as against 34 in 1980 and an average of 43 in the 1976–1980 period). The survey noted a high proportion of marriages in London, suggesting the continued movement there of young Jews.

Anglo-Jewry's divorce rate, though below the national average, was unacceptably high and growing fast, according to Muriel Markham of the Jewish Marriage Council, which in June opened a marriage bureau.

A Board of Deputies survey showed that the mortality rate was stable, with 4,659 burials and cremations recorded under Jewish religious auspices in 1981, as compared with 4,656 in 1980 and an average of 4,799 during the period 1976–1980.

Communal Activities

In December Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip attended a Board of Deputies reception for Jewish Commonwealth leaders. The leaders agreed to establish a permanent council, headquartered in London, to work in concert with the World Jewish Congress.

In the face of economic problems, the Jewish Welfare Board's (JWB) June annual meeting heard calls for an increased emphasis on voluntary services. In February the JWB had been forced to close two homes that it had administered on behalf of the Jewish Women's Homes Association since 1980. A fund in memory of Lionel Leighton, who died in April, was established to provide additional social services to Jews left behind in inner-city areas. Reflecting the economic climate, JWB's careers and employment section assisted 333 applicants in 1982.

In August, in a move to save money, two London day centers—JWB's Sylvia Leighton Center in Clacton and the Jewish Blind Society's (JBS) Robert Zimmler Center in Stamford Hill—which together served some 800 people, were merged into a combined North-East London Jewish Day Center. Savings were also expected from a move by JWB, JBS, and Norwood Child Care to offices at the Michael Sobell Center complex in Golders Green, North London.

A report in March by a Central Council for Jewish Social Services' sub-committee criticized British Jewry for its apathy toward the problems of the disabled. In March the Jewish Society for the Mentally Handicapped conducted a training course for volunteers and professionals involved in its youth integration program. In July the same organization announced a pilot training program for handicapped school leavers and young adults.

In March construction began on a £300,000 Bnei Akiva youth center. On the negative side of the ledger, the Kenton Jewish youth club faced closure because of a Brent borough-council decision eliminating funds for a full-time youth leader.

In July the Jewish Social Responsibility Council, which was founded in Leeds in 1976 to encourage racial harmony, held its first London meeting.

In August the Jewish Employment Action Group was formed in London to help Jews who were encountering discrimination at work.

Zionism and Israel

In June a London rally organized by the Board of Deputies, in association with all the major Jewish organizations, expressed outrage at the attack on the life of Ambassador Argov, and called for the closing of the PLO's London office. The Joint Israel Appeal launched an immediate fund drive to aid the Jewish state.

In July a Board of Deputies delegation and officers of the Conservative Friends of Israel expressed concern about the government's Middle East policy to Foreign Secretary Pym; a British Herut delegation met with Secretary of State Hurd for the same purpose. The Board of Deputies unanimously passed a resolution expressing strong solidarity with Israel in the Lebanon war. United Synagogue (US) president George Gee informed Prime Minister Menachem Begin that his organization supported Israel. The Zionist Federation (ZF) placed an advertisement, "The Truth About Lebanon," in *The Times*, while the Board of Deputies set up a special committee to coordinate public-relations efforts.

Despite strong Jewish organizational backing of Israel, Anglo-Jewish opinion about the war in Lebanon was, in fact, divided. In June Jewish academics placed an advertisement in the *Guardian* dissociating themselves from Israel's actions. In July British Friends of Peace Now held its first public meeting. In August a meeting centering on the theme "Lebanon and After" was organized by the International Jewish Peace Union, the Jewish Socialists' Group, and Peace in Lebanon and Israel. In July the latter group had placed an advertisement in the *Guardian* calling for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. In August MP Neville Sandelson resigned as the Social Democratic party's Friends of Israel vice-chairman, in protest against Israel's activities in Lebanon; MP Leo Abse called for Israel to "abandon the unjust war in Lebanon." The Board of Deputies and the ZF condemned both MP's. Seventy rabbis signed a resolution supporting Israel that was drafted by British Herut.

Reports of the Beirut refugee camp massacre brought expressions of horror from all sectors of the Jewish community. British Friends of Peace Now demonstrated outside Israel's London embassy and placed an advertisement in the *Jewish Chronicle*. The Board of Deputies, while voting overwhelmingly to reiterate its "proud commitment to Israel," called for a full investigation of Israel's role in the massacre. Three religious bodies—the Council of Reform and Liberal Rabbis, the Union of Liberal and Reform Synagogues, and the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (RSGB)—expressed concern about the situation. However, when Board of Deputies president Greville Janner and other officials of the organization visited Israel in October, they indicated to Prime Minister Menachem Begin that British Jews, despite differences over some aspects of Israeli policy, were united in their affection for the Jewish state.

Protests over the anti-Israel stance of the British press were made throughout the Lebanon crisis. In June the RSGB's annual conference criticized "biased and distorted treatment" of Israel in the media. Demonstrations outside the offices of *The Times* were held in July by Concerned Jewish Youth, and again in August by the Union of Jewish Students (UJS).

Statistics produced by the all-party, multi-faith, Joint Committee Against Racism showed that almost one-quarter of the 44 serious attacks on synagogues and other Jewish communal buildings throughout Great Britain between November 1981 and September 1982, occurred in June and July. This was clearly related to

Israel's invasion of Lebanon. At the end of June, Board of Deputies president Janner had spoken about an "ominous time for the Jewish community," while Vice-President Martin Savitt had appealed for vigilance against violent attack.

The final report published in March by the special committee established in 1981 to look into ZF affairs recommended increased membership dues and the abolition of grants to political parties. Other proposals included streamlining the organization by means of an elected national council of 46 members, an elected six-man management committee responsible for overall supervision of ZF business, and fewer standing committees and staff. In May George Garai, the new ZF general secretary, asserted, "We are now living within our means."

In April the United Zionists launched a campaign to mobilize all British Zionists who stood opposed to the dominance of Israeli political parties in Zionist affairs in Great Britain. In July the group announced its intention to seek affiliation with the ZF.

In February the British Aliyah Movement's request for affiliation with the ZF was accepted. In March a World Zionist Organization (WZO) aliyah department report indicated that 964 Britons had emigrated to Israel in 1981, two-thirds of them people under the age of thirty. In July Uzi Baram, chairman of the Knesset's aliyah and absorption committee, stated that ten per cent of immigrants from Great Britain returned home within two years of taking up residency in Israel; this compared with a 40 per cent figure for immigrants from the United States.

At year's end appeals were pending to the WZO executive, the World Zionist Congress tribunal, and the central election board, over irregularities in Britain's elections to the Zionist congress.

Soviet Jewry

Protest on behalf of Soviet Jewry continued in all sectors of the Jewish community, with youth groups being particularly active. In February ULPS youth club members and the 35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry) heckled guests arriving at a celebration of *Soviet Weekly's* fortieth birthday. In March the National Youth Council for Soviet Jewry organized a forest fair at the Manor Farm complex. In November the same group lit Chanukah candles outside the Soviet embassy in London, while protesting the imprisonment of Yosef Begun. In November Concerned Jewish Youth members disrupted a performance by a Soviet singer at London's Festival Hall.

Professional groups also initiated campaigns. In February the Medical and Scientific Committee for Soviet Jewry held a major international seminar at University College, Oxford, dealing with the theme "Soviet Refusenik Scientists—Their Worsening Plight." In July the same group organized a rally and an appeal to Soviet authorities on behalf of exiled scientist Victor Brailovsky. In October an emergency meeting of the Medical Council for Soviet Jewry produced a resolution on behalf of Russian health workers.

Religion

Attempts to change the US's image continued. In April four women took their seats on the US council as observers; though they did not have voting rights, they were able to participate in debates and general operations. A special US sub-committee was formed in April to determine whether, in the light of diminished local needs, some synagogues might be closed. In July another sub-committee undertook a major inquiry into the chief rabbinate. There was also talk of a public affairs committee that would speak out on such matters as race relations and social services.

In April it was announced that Judge Israel Feinstein would join with honorary US officers in discussions of the future role of the rabbinate. In December US president George Gee said that a panel of rabbis would be established to assist the London Beth Din. Other plans included regional rabbinic councils, assistance to smaller communities, sabbatical leave for rabbis to undertake university chaplaincies and youth work, and a grass-roots membership conference.

In December the US council agreed to impose a 7.5 per cent surcharge on membership contributions to cover, among other things, a four per cent salary increase that was due to US officials and staff. As a result of economic recession, joint treasurer Mark Kosky noted, there had been an increase in unpaid memberships.

According to chairman Frank Levine, economic recession, coupled with the proliferation of other *kashrut* authorities, had resulted in a sharp decline in the number of functions supervised by the Kashrus Commission—348 fewer in 1981 than in 1980. If such a situation continued, he argued, it could jeopardize the Commission's survival. At the Commission's July annual meeting, Federation of Synagogues representatives participated for the first time since 1964.

In November Europe's first custom-built, kosher meat abattoir opened in Tower Hamlets, East London, under the auspices of the London Board for Shechita. However, this was balanced by the closing of abattoirs in Waltham Abbey, Newcastle, and Castle Bromwich. In October Empire Kosher Poultry Ltd. closed its Lancashire abattoir.

In June Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits met with the pope. In July Jakobovits and community leaders attended a Falklands Island service of thanksgiving and commemoration at St. Paul's Cathedral. In November the chief rabbi, as president of the Conference of European Rabbis, expressed concern to the Vatican over the pope's meeting with PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

Jewish Education

In January Michael Cohen, director of the London Board for Jewish Religious Education, put forward a plan to have two or more synagogues in particular locales share religious classes. It was hoped that the plan would result in better use of well-qualified teachers. Cohen indicated that the Board, the largest of its kind in Europe, served 5,500 children. In November London's Central Synagogue split with the Board over the regionalization plan.

In February the salaries of part-time London Board for Jewish Religious Education teachers were raised by ten per cent. In August, 29 teachers graduated from the training program that was conducted under the auspices of the Board, Jews' College, and the WZO's department for Torah education. In June two leading Israeli educators visited Great Britain as part of a program to improve the teaching of Hebrew; in November they demonstrated an experimental method for teaching Hebrew and Jewish knowledge to nursery-school children.

Increased interest in Jewish education for younger age groups was reflected in plans for kindergartens at the Bayswater and Maida Vale synagogue and the Southgate Reform synagogue. A primary school in Ilford was also planned. In July Sherman kindergarten, attached to the Simon Marks School, opened.

In February Chief Rabbi Jakobovits announced plans to restructure Jews' College as a college of Jewish studies that would train teachers, social workers, synagogue officials, and communal civil servants, as well as rabbis and cantors. An academic advisory committee was exploring ways to expand the school's library and giving thought to the possibility of setting up a community services department. The resignation of Rabbi Nahum Rabinovitch as principal of Jews' College was followed by the appointment of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks to a chair established in the name of Chief Rabbi Jakobovits. Jews' College started the academic year with a total of 55 students, including 21 newcomers.

In February Leo Baeck College, which trained Reform and Liberal ministers and teachers, appointed Professor Judah Segal as principal and Rabbi Albert Friedlander as dean. In August the school moved to new premises at the Manor House Center for Judaism, Finchley, North London.

In March it was announced that the Pincus Jewish Education Fund for the Diaspora would provide additional grants for British projects. During the past five years, thirteen Anglo-Jewish institutions and programs, including Carmel College, Jews' College, and Yakar Study Center, had received grants. In May Yakar sold its Stanmore, Middlesex premises for financial reasons.

In May the Oxford Center for Post-Graduate Hebrew Studies and Tel Aviv University began a new cooperative program involving the Jacob and Shoshana Schreiber fellowship. Attempts to save Hebrew studies at Leeds University continued throughout the year.

In November the ZF education trust and the Pincus Foundation provided funds for a teacher to introduce modern Hebrew into the curricula of non-Jewish high schools, the Leeds Jewish Day School Committee reported.

In November B'nai B'rith of Great Britain established a fund in memory of Werner Lash and J. C. Gilbert to further Jewish education.

Publications

The *Jewish Chronicle*-Harold H. Wingate literary award went to *Zionism: The Formative Years* by David Vital and *The Penguin Book of Hebrew Verse*, edited and translated by T. Carmi. In future years, one award of £2000 (instead of two awards

of £1000 each) would be made annually for the best fiction or non-fiction book of Jewish interest.

Biographical and autobiographical works included *Marx: Economist, Philosopher, Jew* by Murray Wolfson; *Martin Buber's Life and Work: The Early Years* by Maurice Friedman; *Koestler* by Iain Hamilton; *Walter Benjamin: The Story of a Friendship* by Gershom Scholem; *Shimon Peres* by Matti Golan; *Lord Reading* by Denis Judd; *The Mond Legacy: A Family Saga* by Jean Goodman; *How to be Seventy* by George Mikes; *Bronze in My Blood: A Memoir* by Benno Schotz; and *Refusenik: Trapped in the Soviet Union* by Mark Azbel.

Biblical and religious studies included *Interpreting the Hebrew Bible*, (essays in honor of E. I. J. Rosenthal), edited by J. Emerton and Stefan Reif; *The Story of the Stories: The Chosen People and its God* by Dan Jacobson; *The Sacred Executioner: Human Sacrifice and the Legacy of Guilt* by Hyam Maccoby; *The Great Code: The Bible and Literature* by Northrop Frye; *Introduction to the Critical Study of the Text of the Hebrew Bible* by J. Weingreen; *The Art of Biblical Narrative* by Robert Alter; *A New-Old Rendering of the Psalms* by Solomon Schonfeld; *Teyku: The Unsolved Problem in the Babylonian Talmud* by Louis Jacobs; *The Treatise of the Pool* by Obadyah Maimonides, edited for the first time with translation and notes by Paul Fenton; and *Jews: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices* by Alan Unterman.

Among historical works were *Essays in Modern Jewish History*, (a tribute to Ben Halpern), edited by Frances Malino and Phyllis Cohen Albert and *Philo-Semitism and the Readmission of the Jews to England, 1603-1655* by David Katz. The Holocaust period was covered in *Schindler's Ark* by Thomas Keneally, which won the Booker Prize for a work of literature; *Upon the Head of the Goat: A Childhood in Hungary, 1939-1944* by Aranka Siegal; *Who's Who in Nazi Germany* by Robert Wistrich; *Stolen Years* by Sara Zyskind; and *Vichy France and the Jews* by Michael Marrus and Robert Paxton.

Contemporary studies included *The Third Way: A Journal of Life on the West Bank* by Raja Shehadeh; *Inside the Middle East* by Dilip Hiro; *Jewish Radicals and Radical Jews* by Percy Cohen; and *On the Other Hand* by Chaim Bermant.

Fiction included *Proofs of Affection* by Rosemary Friedman; *The Survivors* by Elaine Feinstein; and *The White Hotel* by D. H. Thomas.

Other works of note were *A Jewish Iconography*, a supplementary volume, by Alfred Rubens; *The Falashas: The Forgotten Jews of Ethiopia* by David Kessler; and *The Arab in Hebrew Prose, 1911-1948* by Risa Domb.

Important additions to the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization series were *Principles of Faith* by Isaac Abravanel, translated by Menachem Kellner; *Socialism and the Jews: The Dilemmas of Assimilation in Germany and Austria-Hungary* by Robert Wistrich; *Economic History of the Jews in England* by Harold Pollins; *Ideology and Experience: Antisemitism in France at the Time of the Dreyfus Affair* by Stephen Wilson; *The Emancipation of the Jews in Britain* by M. C. N. Salbstein; *Mystical Theology and Social Dissent: The Life and Works of Judah Loew of Prague* by Byron Sherwin; and *Judaism on Trial: Jewish-Christian Disputations in the Middle Ages*, edited and translated by Hyam Maccoby.

Personalia

Sir Derek Ezra, who retired as chairman of the National Coal Board in July, was raised to a life peer. Basil Feldman, leader of the Conservative party in the Greater London area, received a knighthood. Aaron Klug, Cambridge molecular biologist, was awarded the 1982 Nobel Peace Prize for Chemistry for his work in the development of electron microscopy. Sir Zelman Cowen, former governor-general of Australia, was appointed provost of Oriel College, Oxford.

British Jews who died in 1982 included Rabbi Mordechai Knoblowicz, Talmud scholar, in January; Arthur Snowman, communal worker, in February, aged 68; Sir Jack Cohen, civic and communal figure, in February, aged 85; Lottie Reizenstein, artist, aged 78; Harry Corbett, actor, in March, aged 57; Harold Goldblatt, theatrical producer and actor, in March; Lionel Leighton, JWB chairman, in April, aged 68; George Him, graphic artist, illustrator, and designer, in April, aged 81; Sir Barnett Janner, communal leader, in May, aged 89; Harry Moss, businessman, in May, aged 86; Henri Tajfel, Bristol University professor of social psychology, in May; Sidney Weiner, director of the Medical Research Council's environmental psychology unit and professor of environmental psychology at London University, in June, aged 66; Jack Salmon, businessman and philanthropist, in June, aged 86; Rabbi Alec Silverstone, emeritus minister of Southport's Hebrew Congregation, in June, aged 85; Albert Polack, former housemaster at Clifton College's Jewish house, in July, aged 90; Sir Raphael Tuck, barrister and one-time Labor MP, in July, aged 79; Hyman Leon, leading figure in local government in Richmond, in July, aged 84; Henry Sanders, artist, in July, aged 64; Amnon Pilley, architect, in August, aged 74; Constance Freedman, sculptress, in August, aged 54; Jack Cinna, communal worker, in August, aged 79; Joseph Gilbert, communal leader, in August, aged 82; Werner Lash, B'nai B'rith national president, in September, aged 71; George Webber, emeritus reader in civil law at London University and communal worker, in September, aged 83; Sir Maxwell Joseph, hotel and property magnate, in September, aged 72; Sir Siegmund Warburg, banker, in October, aged 80; Rabbi Leib Gurwicz, Gateshead *rosh yeshivah*, in October, aged 76; Anna Freud, psychoanalyst, in October, aged 86; Jack "Froggy" Hyams, boxer, in November, aged 72; Immanuel Bierer, physician and Zionist, in November, aged 81; David Davies, psychiatrist, in November, aged 72; J. Edward Sieff, businessman and communal figure, in November, aged 76; Rabbi Morris Nemeth, for nearly 40 years an Anglo-Jewish minister, in December, aged 68; Reginald Levitt, sheriff of Kilmarnock, in December, aged 69; Marty Feldman, comedian, in December, aged 49; Isidore Fishman, Jewish educator, in December, aged 74; and Michael Wallach, member of the *Jewish Chronicle* editorial staff, in December, aged 64.

LIONEL AND MIRIAM KOCHAN

France

National Affairs

IN 1982 THE SOCIALIST government of François Mitterrand was forced to deal with the economic crisis that its predecessor, the Gaullist government of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, had been unable to solve. The Socialists decided upon strong measures, including, as openers, increases in both the guaranteed minimum wage and pensions for retired low-salaried workers. Other measures followed, but they were less well received in various quarters—by businessmen who complained of a destructive fiscal policy, by peasants who felt their interests were being inadequately protected in the European Economic Community [EEC], and by the industrial sector which saw a shrinkage in investment opportunities. Despite wage increases, low-salaried workers saw no improvement in their situation, as rising inflation cut into purchasing power. Growing unemployment and business deficits were also very much in evidence.

Due to the fact that President Mitterrand's cabinet included four Communist ministers, and the Communist party was determined to cling to its power position at all costs, the government was spared serious industrial strife. Nonetheless, there were sporadic strikes in such areas as mining and the nationalized automobile factories. New features of labor unrest were religious and nationalist demands by Arab workers from North Africa, including the right of Muslims to pray at the work place. Anti-clerical French workers, often with a tinge of racial prejudice, labeled such demands as scandalous "ayatollah-khomeinisme."

The economic problems confronting the Mitterrand government provided the Gaullist opposition with an opportunity to make a political comeback. The two principal opposition parties, Giscard d'Estaing's Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF, Union for Democracy in France) and Jacques Chirac's Rassemblement du Peuple Républicain (RDR, Rally for the Republic), set aside their differences and regrouped. In a series of sharp speeches, Chirac, the mayor of Paris, attacked Justice Minister Robert Badinter for liberalizing the prison system, Interior Minister Gaston Defferre for a rash of scandals, and Council of Ministers president Pierre Mauroy for unkept promises. Chirac accused the four Communist ministers in the government of systematically packing their offices with political supporters.

Ebbing public confidence in the Left was reflected in the partial legislative elections which were held early in the year. In all but four of the races, opposition candidates won the first round. The opposition made a particularly strong showing in the provinces, thereby gaining executive power over decentralization measures that were being implemented in the various departments of France.

A proposal to nationalize the entire French educational system, including a large network of Catholic schools, was still being debated at the end of the year. The Socialist government promised that any new education law would be negotiated rather than decreed. On April 24, 100,000 people marched in Paris in support of free schools.

Terrorism

Terrorist attacks, directed against a wide variety of targets, grew in number in 1982. On January 18 Charles Rey, military attaché at the American embassy in Paris, was assassinated; the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, a group unknown until then, claimed responsibility for the act. On February 11 the Corsican National Liberation Front committed 25 violent acts on the island, leaving one foreign legionnaire dead and two wounded; on February 16 the same group perpetrated 17 violent acts in Paris. On March 29 a bomb exploded on a Paris-Toulouse train, leaving five passengers dead and 27 wounded; Carlos, the notorious international terrorist, was thought to be behind the act. On April 3 Yaakov Bensimantov, second-secretary of the Israeli embassy in Paris, was shot to death with the same gun that had killed Charles Rey; the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction again claimed credit. On April 22 a bomb explosion at a pro-Iraqi Arab weekly in Paris left one person dead and about 60 wounded; Syrian secret service agents were believed to have planted the bomb. Responsibility for an explosion in front of the Iraqi embassy in Paris on July 11, which left five people wounded, was claimed by an Iraqi Shiite movement taking orders from Iran. On July 19 the offices of *Minute*, a right-wing daily, were severely damaged in an attack by leftists belonging to the *Action Directe* group. On July 21 two mechanics were killed in a car explosion directed against Roderick Grant, commercial attaché at the American embassy; the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction once again claimed responsibility. On the same day several people in the Latin quarter were wounded in an explosion that was set off by an Armenian group. On July 23 Fati Dani, assistant director of the PLO office in Paris, was assassinated. On September 17, the automobile of an Israeli embassy functionary exploded in front of a high school in Paris, wounding 51 people; the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction claimed responsibility. On December 28 there were seven violent incidents on Corsica.

A terrorist attack in Paris' rue des Rosiers on August 9 provoked outrage in the Jewish community, particularly among North African Jews, who were residents of the neighborhood. Two men with automatic pistols entered Goldberg's Restaurant and opened fire on the customers, leaving six dead and 22 wounded. While the attack was attributed to members of Abu Nidal's dissident Palestinian group, it was openly antisemitic in nature, since the restaurant was nothing more than a Jewish eatery, with no links to Israel or Zionism. President Mitterrand attended a memorial service for the victims in a neighborhood synagogue, but was denounced by some participants who held him responsible for an anti-Israel atmosphere which, they felt,

encouraged terrorism against Jews. At the request of the government, the Communist-dominated General Confederation of Labor canceled a pro-Palestinian demonstration that had been scheduled for the day after the attack.

Relations With Israel

The change for the better in France's relations with Israel, which had been expected after President Mitterrand assumed office, did not fully materialize. One positive development, most certainly, was Mitterrand's recognition that the Camp David accords constituted an important first step toward a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict—something which Giscard d'Estaing had never done. Mitterrand visited Israel in early March, becoming the first European head of state to do so. In a speech to the Knesset, he declared his general support for the idea of a Palestinian state.

In sharp contrast to President Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson was a strong advocate of "fraternization" with the PLO. Cheysson met with Yasir Arafat, and on one occasion compared the Palestinian struggle against Israel to the struggle of the French resistance against the Nazis.

At a press conference in July, which took place against the background of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, President Mitterrand stated that a "new Oradour" was intolerable. (Oradour, a small town in southwest France, became a symbol of barbarism and cruelty during World War II when an SS division massacred the entire population.) In fact, Mitterrand had fallen into a trap set by a Palestinian journalist who referred to Oradour in posing a question about the Lebanese situation. Needless to say, the comparison evoked great consternation in Jewish circles.

From the very outset of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, the French press and broadcast media attacked the Jewish state. These attacks reached a peak following the September 17 massacre of Palestinians in refugee camps in Beirut—the Israelis were likened to Nazis and Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Adolph Hitler. Among the Paris dailies, only the right-wing *Figaro* maintained a certain reserve in criticizing Israel. Moreover, the paper opened its pages to Annie Kriegel, the highly-regarded sociologist and political scientist, who skillfully defended Israel's actions.

A number of Jewish intellectuals joined the anti-Israel chorus, not failing to explain, of course, that they represented "authentic" Jewish conscience, unperverted by Zionism. With one exception—the philosopher Wladimir Yankelevitch—these protesters, including Eugène Minkovski, the noted surgeon, and Pierre Vidal-Naquet, the historian, were de-Judaized Jews. At the beginning of the Lebanon war, a small group of Jews, including a few members of Hashomer Hatzair, the Zionist youth group, protested in front of the Israeli embassy in Paris, declaring their solidarity with the Palestinians. Further into the war, there was an emergency meeting in Paris of former World Jewish Congress presidents Nahum Goldmann and Philip Klutznick and former French premier Pierre Mendès-France, who

sought to find a common ground between Israel and the PLO. All this served to strengthen the public's impression that there were "good Jews" and "good Israelis" who stood opposed to Prime Minister Begin's "fascist" wickedness, just as there had been good Germans who opposed Hitler's brutality.

While the leading organizations of French Jewry—the Consistory, Conseil Représentatif des Juifs de France (CRIF, Representative Council of French Jewry), and Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU, United Jewish Philanthropic Fund)—did not take a formal stance in favor of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, they did make clear their basic solidarity with the Jewish state. This position reflected the strong pro-Israel outlook of the French Jewish establishment, which had become the norm since the 1967 Six Day War. Among Jewish newspapers and magazines, only *Tribune Juive* ("Jewish Tribune") was critical of Israel.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography

The Jewish population of France was estimated to be 535,000. Leading Jewish population centers were Paris, Marseilles, Nice, Lyons, and Toulouse.

Communal Activities

The Jewish community was deeply disturbed by an incident that occurred in Reims. A Jewish textile manufacturer decided to close his business on Yom Kippur, and proposed that the workers make up the lost time over the next few days. The reaction of the representative of the General Confederation of Labor to the proposal was totally negative. In the ensuing debate over the matter, the General Confederation of Labor newspaper ran a shocking, Streicher-style caricature of the manufacturer, depicting him as a gnome wearing a hasidic hat and a jacket buttoned with dollar bills and smoking a cigar banded with a star of David. The Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Anti-semitisme (LICRA, International League Against Racism and Antisemitism) lodged a complaint.

At year's end, there were several candidates for the CRIF presidency, a post left open by the death of Alain de Rothschild. The leading candidate was thought to be Théo Klein, a Zionist with socialist leanings, who maintained close ties to the Mitterrand government. Klein's pro-government stance was sharply criticized by some Jews, who pointed to Foreign Minister Cheysson's open bias in favor of the Arabs.

At a gathering of French rabbis on January 25, the main topic of discussion was the issue of conversion to Judaism. With regard to another area, the rabbis passed a resolution strongly advocating full-time Jewish schools.

In January the chief rabbi of France, René Samuel Sirat, installed a new chief rabbi in the city of Nancy and a new rabbi in Lille.

A major theme of the plenary meeting of the Assises du Judaïsme Français (Assembly for French Judaism) in June was the need to strengthen ties between French Jews and Israel.

In June, Jean Paul Elkann, who had been serving as president of the Paris Consistory since 1967, was elected president of the Central Consistory of France. Emile Touati, an economist and Orthodox Jew, who had been functioning as editor of *Information Juive* ("Jewish Information") for many years, took over the Paris post. At the general assembly of the Association Consistoriale General Israelite de Paris (ACIP, The Jewish Consistorial Association of Paris) in June, there were discussions of plans to build new synagogues and community centers in the suburbs.

As in earlier years, raucous debates characterized the campaign for French delegates to the World Zionist Congress. During the vote, there were discoveries of irregularities.

Jewish Education and Culture

Elie Cohen, director of aliyah for the Jewish Agency in France, took sorrowful note of the fact that 80 per cent of Jewish children attending secular schools did not receive any Jewish education at all; another 12 per cent were exposed to nothing beyond bar mitzvah preparation. As for the adult Jewish population, Cohen estimated that about 400,000 Jews in France had no formal involvement with things Jewish—religious, cultural, or political.

Efforts to expand the teaching of modern Hebrew in public and private high schools continued. During the 1981–1982 school year, 3,720 students were enrolled in such courses. Before a course in modern Hebrew could be introduced into a particular school, it had to be requested by parents of at least 15 students. A private organization, established with Jewish and non-Jewish participants, was seeking to promote such requests.

The dramatic rise in interest in midrash, Talmud, and kabbalah continued, in some instances drawing individuals who had previously been completely alienated from Judaism. The phenomenon was largely associated with the intellectual elite of the universities.

L'Union des Etudiants Juifs (Jewish Student Union) continued in its habitual lethargy. Neo-Yiddishist groups, however, showed some vitality.

Publications

L'au delà du Verset ("Beyond the Verse," Editions de Minuit), by Emmanuel Lévinas, consists of excerpts from the Talmud, together with analyses which reveal the penetrating thought of this French philosopher and master of Jewish learning.

Arlette Elkaim-Sartre, the adopted daughter of Jean-Paul Sartre, translated the rabbinic classic *Ein Yaakov* into the French (Verdier).

Two new books introduced cultivated French readers to the thought of Franz Rosenzweig, the great 20th century German-Jewish theologian. *L'Etoile de la*

Rédemption ("The Star of Redemption," Seuil) was Rosenzweig's most important work. *Système et Révélation* ("System and Revelation," Seuil), by Stéphane Moses, is an examination of Rosenzweig's ideas.

L'avenir d'une Négation ("The Future of a Denial," Seuil), by Alain Finkielkraut, a rising young author, is a brilliant analysis of the psychological and political background of the campaign to deny the historical reality of the Holocaust.

La Onzième Épreuve d'Abraham ("The Eleventh Test of Abraham," Lattes), by Elaine Amado-Lévy-Valensi, a French philosopher and psychoanalyst teaching in Israel, uses the Biblical story of Abraham and Lot as a vehicle for commenting on contemporary Arab-Israeli relations.

Arnold Mandel's *Un Apprentissage Hasidique* ("A Hasidic Apprenticeship," Mazarine) tells the story of a young Algerian Jew living in Paris who becomes a Lubavitcher hasid.

La Maison des Lévy ("The House of Levy," Hachette), by Roman Fister, translated from the English, is a moving chronicle of a typical German-Jewish family from the end of the 19th century down to the Hitler era.

Elie Wiesel's *Contre la Mélancolie* ("Against Melancholy," Seuil) deals with aspects of hasidism.

Le Jour de la Comtesse ("The Day of the Countess," Gallimard) by David Shahar, translated from the Hebrew, is a brilliant delineation of Jerusalem's mysteries and magical charms. The volume won the Medici Prize for foreign books.

Itzik Manger's *Le Livre du Paradis* ("The Book of Heaven," Lattès), translated from the Yiddish, is a humorous tale.

A small Orthodox synagogue in Paris provides the setting for Bernard Mathias' excellent novel, *Les Concierges de Dieu* ("The Gatekeepers of God," Grasset).

Un Amour de Soi ("A Self-Love Affair," Hachette), by Serge Doubrovski, who teaches in New York, is a powerful, introspective novel strongly influenced by psychoanalysis.

The 1982 prize for literature of the Fondation du Judaïsme Français (Foundation for French Judaism) was awarded to Edmond Jabès, the Egyptian-born, French-Jewish poet.

Personalia

Nahum Goldmann, the internationally-known Jewish leader who resided in Paris, died in Germany on August 29, aged 87. He was a former president of the World Zionist Organization and the founder of the World Jewish Congress.

Former French premier Pierre Mendès-France died on October 18, aged 75. He took great pride in his double Portuguese-Sephardi/Alsatian-Ashkenazi origins.

Baron Alain de Rothschild, president of CRIF, died on October 17, aged 70. He was a staunch Zionist who labored for the welfare of the Jewish state.

Albert Cohen, the great French-Jewish novelist, died in Geneva in October, 1981, aged 86. His works included *Solal*, *Mangeclous*, *Le Livre de ma Mère*, and *Belle du Seigneur*; the latter volume won the French Academy's Grand Prix. Cohen, who was

born in Greece, was brought to Marseille as a young child. He became a functionary of both the League of Nations and the United Nations. Cohen also worked for a time with Chaim Weizmann.

Clara Malraux, former wife of André Malraux, died on December 15, aged 85. She was a close political companion of her husband for many years, but later drew closer to Zionism. She made several trips to Israel, and wrote an important book about the kibbutz movement.

Georges Perec, an important novelist who was the grandson of I. L. Peretz, died on March 3, aged 47. Perec had very little connection with Jewish life and knew no Yiddish.

ARNOLD MANDEL