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Massacre in Peking

The Chinese Government's brutal assault on thousands of Chinese students and civilians peacefully demonstrating in Tiananmen Square, Peking, early in June is an enormous tragedy, not only for the heavy loss of life inflicted but also on China's image of openness to Western influence and economic reform. Particularly so for China's leader, the 84-year-old Den Xiaoping, who himself was arrested on Mao Tse-Tung's orders for advocating liberalisation during the Cultural Revolution of the sixties and seventies. The massacres have put the clock back over 20 years.

But what is now called into doubt is the position of Britain's colony of Hong Kong when it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997. The Joint Declaration between the British and Chinese Governments of 1984, based on the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" (i.e. Communist and Capitalist), for the following fifty years, is totally negated by the massacres. While it is true that a government has to maintain law and order in its territory, the scale and nature of its action has shocked the civilised world, and outraged its own population now threatening civil war. The question may be asked: What guarantee is there that the Chinese would not brutally set aside all agreements and understandings if it does not approve of any of the activities undertaken by Hong Kong residents towards greater democratisation and liberalisation?

The British Government should immediately take two positive steps in regard to Hong Kong (and, of course, bearing in mind its small Jewish community): 1) Hasten the process towards an elected assembly, and 2) make arrangements for entry into Britain of a large number of the 3 million British passport holders, should the need arise. Anti-immigration diehards in Britain will complain "why should they come here?" - to which the obvious answer is - "because you were there and, as in all Britain's colonies, engaging in their vast economic exploitation over the years" ●

P.S.G.



Student demonstration in Shanghai. Some were 8 years old.

Tasalahna

"We have made up our quarrel"

The bloody sequel to the student demonstrations in Peking and the ruthless massacre of the champions of democracy in Tiananmen Square in early June overshadowed what was perhaps the major diplomatic event of the year. During our visit to China, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to the Chinese capital to meet Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and hold the first official summit between the two countries in 30 years.

During the three decades since 1959 when the two socialist powers broke off with bitter enmity, it was said that no nation in Asia could sleep well under the constant threat of these giants clashing. But I was always afraid that the apparent quarrel was a ruse. Stalin had, in 1940, tricked Hitler into believing that Russia could not defeat Finland and that ploy helped Russia in overcoming the German assault when it came in 1941.

The story is told of the wily fox who once found himself entrapped by a lion, with no means of escape. So he thought of a ruse. He came to the lion and said, "Your Majesty, I need your help in solving my domestic problem and I am indeed fortunate in meeting you today. My wife and I always quarrel over our six young children and I humbly beseech you to come with me to arbitrate between us". Attracted by the prospect of a much larger catch, the lion went along. Once safely in his lair, the fox shouted to the lion, "Thank you, Mr. Lion, you needn't wait any longer, we have made up our quarrel, *tasalahna*".

Surely, the free world must now ponder what the future holds in store with these giants getting together. In both the Soviet Union and China the general move is towards more (if sometimes restrained) liberalisation; but there is still a wide ideological gap between the free world and the Communist block, based on economic philosophy.

Man can produce much more than he

needs to consume and should be free to retain, bequeath or dispose of his excess production in any manner he wishes. However, capitalism cannot make everybody rich and communism can only make everybody poor. That is why I always thought that communism could not be a valid alternative economic system but that it is only a reaction to a faulty capitalist system. The future struggle, therefore, will not be between the communist and capitalist extremes but a race towards the centre. So although a Sino-Soviet *entente* may look less threatening now than it may have done 30 years ago - if the socialist countries will believe that they have found a happy medium, they will not hesitate to impose their will by force of arms and can have an easy walkover in Asia and Europe. The free world would be best advised to mend its ways before it is too late and consider the following points:

- that the root cause of inflation is the bad distribution of wealth;
- that money can be issued only by the consumer and not by the moneylender or by a central bank;
- that land tax should provide citizens with a national dividend;
- that wealth must not be stored in what constitutes a debt on future generations.

The continuing rift and hostility between the Iraqi and Syrian regimes may be convenient to Israel while they last. But this is another instance where a sudden change of regime in either or both countries can transform the balance of power in the Middle East and pose a serious threat to Israel's survival ●

N.E.D.



The Great Wall. The only structure visible from the moon.

CHINA Revisited

by Naim Dangoor



We were lucky to visit China when we did, in the second half of May, and to leave just before the current troubles became serious. Wherever we went we met student demonstrations. They were peaceful and the students appreciated our sympathy. China opened its doors to foreign visitors in earnest and an estimated 31 million tourists visit that country every year.

China is the largest country in the world after the Soviet Union and Canada. It covers 9.6 million sq. km. divided into 22 provinces and 5 autonomous regions of minority nationalities. 93% of the population is ethnic Chinese.

Problem of Chinese Writing

Mankind developed speech from early days. By the dawn of civilisation 8,000 years ago, man spoke several sophisticated languages. The difficulty arose when people tried to commit their thoughts to writing. The Egyptians expressed their ideas in pictures. These hieroglyphics constituted a separate system not connected to the spoken language. The Chinese and others likewise developed a written language based on "word symbols" that are called "characters" which have little or no phonetic element. There are over 10,000 different characters; to read a newspaper you need to know 3,000 characters. Like Egyptian, written Chinese is a sign language that has no connection to spoken Chinese. This is illustrated by the fact that written Chinese is uniform all over China but different regions speak different dialects that are unintelligible to one another. The standard dialect now used in schools, public broadcasts, etc., is the Beijing dialect known as Mandarin. Until China adopts our alphabet she will still be living in the Stone Age.

The Alphabet

It was the genius of our ancestors that produced a simple writing system directly derived from the spoken language, name-

ly, the alphabet, consisting of 22 consonants expressing the various phonetics (sounds) of speech. The Phoenicians are usually credited with the invention of the alphabet because they were the sea-faring people who spread it to the Mediterranean countries. But, in fact, the Canaanitic alphabet, the beginning and foundation of all learning, was a creation of Israel's genius. The Hebrews, who presented the world with the Bible and Monotheism, also gave it the alphabet. Canaan was the geographical centre of near-Eastern civilisations and the alphabet was developed there at the time of Abraham; I tend to credit Abraham himself with its invention nearly 4,000 years ago.

Colonial China

In the old colonial days there were signs in some public places that said: CHINESE AND DOGS NOT ALLOWED HERE. The Revolution has put an end to all that. But now 5-star hotels and "friendship stores" are going up everywhere, for the benefit of tourists, where only foreign currency is accepted. The Chinese are again excluded! As for the dogs, they were all consumed during the hungry times of the Cultural Revolution. In our extensive travels by train, coach and canal boat, we did not see a dog or a cat anywhere. There were no birds in China's skies: they were all eaten or killed as pests – the Chinese cannot tolerate any competition for their meagre food resources. Likewise, we noticed very few farm animals as there are more than enough humans to do the work. China for the Chinese has become a stark reality.

China now produces 400kg of grain *per capita* – just enough for the nation. In fact China feeds 22% of the world's population on only 7% of the cultivated land. The threat implied in this statement has been the basis of the age-old fear of the "Yellow Menace".

Among the cities we visited were:

Beijing, the capital, with its Tiananmen Square, the largest in the world, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace and nearby Great Wall – the only construction visible from the moon.

Xi'an, ancient capital of China and starting point of the Silk Road. It is surrounded by a perfectly preserved massive wall – some 20 metres wide at the top, with several gates and a moat – a rare example of how medieval towns were defended. We also saw there the famous terracotta army of the Chin dynasty. Xi'an has today 60,000 Moslems and while we were there they demonstrated against a book, called *Sex Customs* which, they claimed, insulted Islam.



The Terracotta Army, recently discovered near the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi.

China's 25 million Moslems are, strangely enough, recognised as an ethnic minority rather than a religious group and are, thus, not subject to the birth control policy that restricts Chinese couples to one child only. These pampered, single children are known as "little emperors".

Nanking – the imposing mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Republic of China; the gigantic bridge over the Yangtze River.

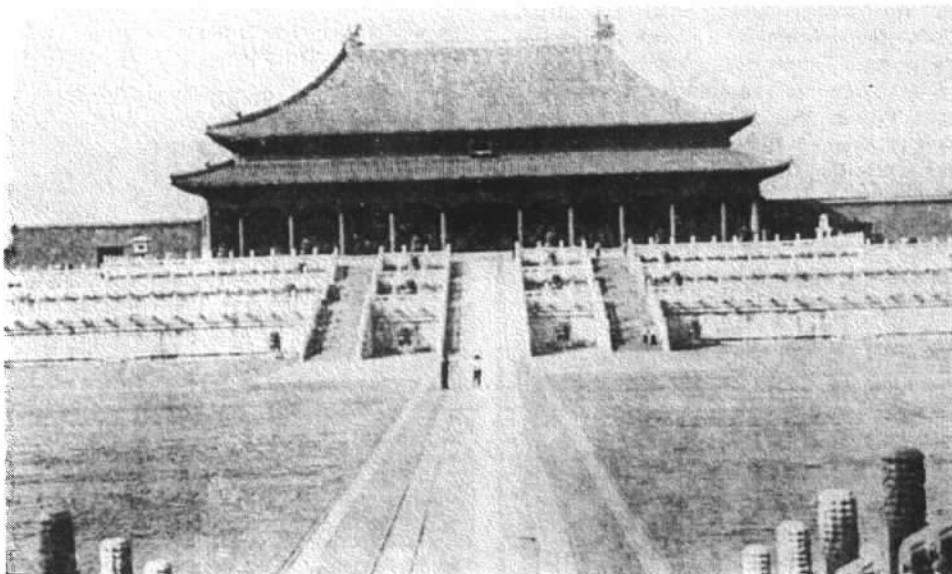
Wushi – the heart of China's natural silk production and centre of the Grand Canal, China's greatest waterway, which connects Beijing in the north with Hangchow in the south. It is 1,800km long and 30 metres wide on average, built by an emperor of the Sui dynasty 1,350 years ago to collect taxes and get concubines from the South. As a structural feat it is second only to the Great Wall.

We visited Soochow and Shanghai, the largest city in China with 12 million inhabitants. A bustling, industrial city, its streets packed with people and bicycles.

Guilin – with its spectacular mountain and river scenery and large underground caves of stalactites and stalagmites.

We ended up in Canton, from where we took the train to Hong Kong.

Chinese civilization has existed for 4,000 years and for them the world was divided into Chinese and Barbarian.



The Hall of Supreme Harmony in the Forbidden City.

Shanghai – my birthplace

by Renée Dangoor

My trip to Shanghai (now pronounced Shang-hai) was a sentimental journey. It was my first return to the home town where I was born and lived for 20 years.

It was very enlightening for us, as well, to see what was happening in a country which has been in the news for the last few weeks. The changes that have been taking place in Shanghai are enormous. First of all it had been a cosmopolitan city of 6 million people, with many international communities. Now it seems completely Chinese, with 12 million people. What we did notice was the non-violent and hardworking Chinese people, and although most people were on bicycles everywhere, they managed to weave through motor traffic with no accidents.

Elias Sassoon, my grandmother's uncle, was the first Jew to arrive in Shanghai in 1844 after the Opium War. Other Baghdadi Jews followed and, in time, numbered about 1,000. They all spoke Baghdadi Arabic and conducted their accounts and correspondence in Arabic written in the Baghdadi version of the Rashi script. They were, without exception, devout Jews who lived a strictly Orthodox life. In the wake of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Hitler, thousands of Ashkenazi Jews found their way to Shanghai. The Baghdadis, to their credit, stretched out a helping hand to the penniless refugees.

My family lived in the French Concession. On our arrival with the Kuoni group, by train from Canton to Shanghai, our Chinese guide greeted us with the thought that we might not be able to see the city as the demonstrations were getting worse. Imagine my disappointment at the thought of it. However, we boarded our coach and our first stop, as luck would have it, was The Building of Arts and Crafts in the French Concession. I had brought two maps with me, one in Chinese, and the only map I could find in English was from the Royal Geographical Society next door to us in London. Because it was printed in 1946, the librarian said he might have to get permission from the Ministry of Defence to let me have a photostat of it, but then he gave it to me.

As we were looking around this beautiful house and garden, which was some family's home before and was now an office and workplace, I realised we were very near my former neighbourhood. As we left, my husband Naim looked at the two maps and realised that we were very near my home, so we asked to leave the

coach in order to find it. We turned one corner and then the next, and we were in Rue Pottier, and then the lane of our home! Thus it was that in the first hour of arriving in Shanghai, I had the excitement of finding our destination.

We could see the door was open, so we went up the steps, and a pleasant woman who was on the ground floor was cooking in the pantry. She was very surprised when I told her in sign language I used to live there 43 years ago.

I saw every room occupied by a family – there were eight families living there. In the salon was our piano, still in good running order as Naim tried it, and on either side there were two beds. Then we entered the dining room, belonging to another family, and then the glass porch, which used to be full of plants, and then we went into the overgrown garden, which was now communal, for all the houses in that lane. Upstairs there was a young man in my and my sister's bedroom. I was told he was studying music at an Academy. In the other bedroom were two Chinese girls who were very pleasant and spoke English, and after we took a picture together they asked if we could send them one, if it came out well.

All the other rooms were also occupied, even the attic, and if they were locked they opened them for us. By the time we left the house, a young Chinese teacher of English at University saw us in the lane and started talking to us, because he lived next door, with his wife, also a teacher. His mother was upstairs and waved to us from above, and there were also seven families in that

house. He offered to help us in looking for other places of interest.

We looked for the Ohel Rachel Synagogue in Seymour Road (now Shanxi Lu) and we found it occupied by the S'hai Education Bureau. All the furniture was removed, and chairs put in rows to make it a lecture hall with a stage.

We took a taxi and looked all over Avenue Haig to find my grandparents' beautiful home, but could not find it, except for one large door which was locked. As it was 6pm, we thought it was after hours, so went again the next morning, but it was still locked, and no-one answered the bell.

When we went further, I found my former school in Yu Yuen Road. Then we looked for the famous French Club, where we used to swim and play tennis, and meet many French, Dutch, Danish and Hungarian friends, but that was being completely demolished and redone into a huge complex of hotels to join with the Cathay Mansions, which was already a high-rise building called Jingjang Hotel.

When we passed my cousins' home in Bubbling Well Road, I recognised the garden and house and asked the taxi driver to stop. We rang the bell and someone opened the door, and there it was, as before, but a woman came rushing to close the door so that we could not even look in. We were told it was an Army Unit, and so I think my grandparents' home is now some such secret office.

We passed the Lyceum Theatre, which is now the Shanghai Art Theatre. That is where I took part in a play, with an English woman Producer, and a German-Jewish professional Director, who later advised me to study dramatics in England and gave me a letter for Mary Hailey Bell, who is the wife of John Mills, to advise me where to



The old Lyceum Theatre.



The Shanghai waterfront has not changed.

study. It seems she had been in Shanghai and he had met her. He himself was a refugee from Germany who lived in Hongkew, on the outskirts of Shanghai, where all the refugees were placed, and among them was Miss Godel, our nice music teacher, who used to travel to our home. It seems Shanghai was the only city that accepted these refugees, even without a visa, and they managed there to make a life for themselves, working and selling in

built-up shacks and cafés.

In passing, I would like to mention that there was an excellent Ballet School in Shanghai, started by White Russian teachers from the Bolshoi, who left after the Revolution and found a safe haven there. Actually, Margot Fonteyn's talent was discovered in Shanghai, so her mother took her to England to continue to study ballet, where she made such a success.

The Cathay Hotel, which belonged to Sir V. Sassoon, is now the Peace Hotel, and all those tall and beautiful buildings are still there on the waterfront of the Whangpu river. It was known as the Bund.

The Kadoories' home, which was called Marble Hall, is now "The Children's Palace", and the large Hardoon building is The Shanghai Exhibition Centre.

This last Passover, in April, many Jews who had lived in Shanghai in those days came from America for a Seder Reunion in Shanghai. It was conducted by Yosef Tekoah (I knew him as Joseph Tukachinsky). I read in an article from Canada that the Chinese said they would put plaques on the remaining buildings that once housed Jewish activities, as they want to encourage Jews to come. So far we saw none, but it would be a good idea to make a plaque for the Ohel Rachel Synagogue, which we used to attend, and send it to our Chinese teacher friend in Shanghai, who will try to arrange with the Authorities to put it up. He himself was delighted to meet his "first Jewish friends".

Here is a letter which I have just received from my good friend from Shanghai, Henriette Stiner, who was married to the Swiss Ambassador (to Peking, Chile and The Hague). He unfortunately died in a car accident. Her reference to our life in China expresses what one feels.

Dear Renée, what a surprise to receive your lines from China!

You were very brave in your enterprise, because I am sure you knew how strong was the nostalgia not only of your youth, but of the good old times.

As you remember, Sven and I were in post in Peking from 1950 to 1953. We loved the city, which was really Chinese (not like Shanghai in our time), and the people with their cunning and sense of humour.

The contacts with the officials, newly imbued with Mao's principles were more difficult. However we were young, we had two children born there, with wonderful attention, and although there were no attractions whatsoever, except "Chinese Opera", (once a year is enough), and Chinese cinema was incredibly poor and stupid with Communist propaganda, still I have good memories of that epoch. During three years, we could not go out of the precincts of Peking, but once a year the Protocol organised a tour for the diplomatic corps, that's how we could visit the "Ming Tomb" and the "Great Wall".

I had several opportunities to go back to Shanghai and be accompanied by someone of our embassy, but I never wanted to do so. I knew what the situation was there, and thought it would be too sad to see Shanghai in the "new" state of life . . . Our clubs, our schools, our friends were gone . . .

You were very brave . . . but I would like to know your impressions . . . it must be sad to see a completely different world to the one that we remember. But our memories remain. No change of political regime can change them. What a lovely time we had!●



The State of Israel Bonds Scroll of Honour and Jerusalem Medallion were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Menahem Baroukh for their support to Israel through State of Israel Bonds.

Minister Moshe Shahal, who attended the presentation together with leading members of the Sephardi Community, emphasised the need for Jewish solidarity in view of the crucial decisions which will be taken in the forthcoming year. He added: "The purchase of a Bond is a vote of confidence in Israel's future"●

Jewish Senior Officials in the Royal Government of Iraq (July 1932)

Meer effendi Basri, born 19.9.1911, Superintendent, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Elias Ezra eff., born 1900, Superintendent (confidential section), Ministry of Interior.

Daud Menashi, born 1894, Accounts Officer, Police Department.

Hesqail Shohet eff., born 1905, Mumayiz of Accounts, Health Department.

Dr. Daud Nissim, born 1884, Medical Officer, Royal Hospital.

Dr. Joseph Rosenfeld, born 1880, Medical Officer, Lunatic Asylum.

Dr. Yacub Gabbay, born 1905, Medical Officer, Basrah.

Dr. Salman Zakaria, born 1875, Medical Officer, Ba'quba.

Dr. Moshi Hesquail, born 1882, Medical Officer, Dahana, Baghdad.

Salman eff. Elkabir, born 1895, Director, State Domains.

Moshi eff. Soffer, born 1905, Mumayiz, Income Tax.

Ibrahim beg Elkabir, born 1885, Accountant-General.

Khedhour eff. Ezra, born 1896, Mumayiz, Budget Section.

Daud eff. Khedhoory, born 1903, Assistant Collector of Customs, Baghdad.

Moshi eff. Shohet, born 1895, Assistant Accounts Officer, Port Directorate, Basrah.

Aziz eff. Yusuf, born 1895, Accountant Sulaimani Liwa.

Ezra eff. Elwaya, born 1894, Assistant Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Daud eff. Shaul Toeg, born 1892, Senior Auditor.

Sion eff. Balass, born 1897, Senior Auditor.

Albert eff. Shamash, born 1905, acting Senior Auditor.

Sion eff. Shoua Jiji, born 1898, Superintendent Records Section, Ministry of Justice.

Musa eff. Cohen, born 1899, Confidential Clerk, Ministry of Justice.

Daud eff. Samra, born 1878, Vice-President, Court of Cassation.

Heskel eff. Murad, born 1896, Criminal Magistrate, Baghdad.

Hiskail eff. Salih, born 1898, Assistant Inspector, Tapu Department.

Reuben David, born 1892, Military Accountant-General, Ministry of Defence.

Sion eff. Zilkha, born 1900, Mumayiz of Administration, Ministry of Economics and Communications.

Joseph eff. Shaul, born 1900, Assistant Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Salim eff. Tarzi, born 1897, Accounts Officer, Posts and Telegraphs.

Salim eff. Daniel, born 1901, Aviation Traffic Officer, Department of Civil Aviation.

Shoua eff. Zeloof, born 1900, Assistant Engineer, Public Works, Diwaniyah.

Nissim eff. Soussa, born 1900, Sub-Engineer, Irrigation Department.

Shemtob eff. Balli, born 1909, Civil Veterinary Surgeon, Mosul.

Naim eff. Murad, born 1903, Accountant, Ministry of Education.

The Senate

Ezra eff. Menahem Daniel, Senator.

Members of the Chamber of Deputies

Baghdad: Ibrahim eff. Hayim; Sassoon eff. Heskail.

Basrah: Roubain eff. Somekh.

Mosul: Ishaq eff. Ephrayim●

Murderers Among Us

This two-part drama on ITV was based on the autobiography of Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter.

While Wiesenthal's motives are noble and his work is heroic, his objectives are pathetic, namely, to remind the world of the Holocaust so that it won't happen again!

Won't happen again? Is this all we require of the world? Are we telling our enemies, "You have been naughty in the past, and as long as you don't do it again everything is alright"?

If we keep reminding the world of the Holocaust, all they will remember is that the Germans killed the Six Millions with impunity. Prosecuting one or two Eichmans is not the answer to the Holocaust. That can be counterproductive, as in the episode of Durer's trial in Vienna when he was found "not guilty" and showered with flowers. Or in the case of the recent arrest in Nice of Paul Touvier, France's most wanted war criminal, and a fugitive for 45 years. Antisemitic and Nazi slogans were painted on synagogues in Rouen and Paris.

I was taught in engineering that to drive a big nail you need a big hammer. Tinkering with a small hammer will only bend the nail and dent its head. Likewise with the Holocaust: the punishment must fit the crime; tinkering with it is worse than useless. The Holocaust should be commemorated in the flesh of our oppressors, in the cemeteries of our enemies. But who are we to punish? Anyone who says Hitler was right; anyone who denies that tragedy or trifles with it. They should be treated as if they had committed it.

The Pope and Yasser Arafat are links in the chain of oppressors of the Jewish people through the ages: Arafat, the terrorist, committed to the destruction of the Jewish State and dreaming of another holocaust on the 4 million Israelis.

The Pope, as head of an unrepentant Church of Rome that has preached anti-semitism, and that has not kept its promises regarding the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz. Clearly, their plan is to take over the Holocaust, convert Auschwitz into a Christian shrine and represent the Six Millions as sacrificial offerings on the altar of Christianity. Future generations of Christian pilgrims will be told, "This is the spot where the 'murderers of God' received their just punishment".

At a recent preview in Rome of the TV film, Simon Wiesenthal commented, "The Christian Church has always helped Nazi war criminals. Catholic Nazis addressed themselves to one of their bishops, and Protestants to another. Caritas, the Roman Catholic relief organisation, paid for everybody. Even Mengele [The Auschwitz death camp doctor known as the 'Angel of Death'] was able to escape, because he had a forged document obtained from the secretary of Cardinal Siri, then Archbishop of Genoa".

The World Jewish Congress has in-

Baghdad in 1878

Extracts from the book *Through Asiatic Turkey* by G. Geary who was the Editor of *The Times of India* during the last century.
(by courtesy of Dr. Heskell D. Isaacs of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, University of Cambridge). Part 1.

We arrived in Baghdad after nightfall, and thus missed the fine view of the city as it is approached from the river. The kufas at once swarmed round the steamer to take off the passengers, who were rapidly floated away in basketfuls. I remained on board for the night, and the next morning Colonel Nixon, the British Political Agent, very kindly sent to the steamer for me, inviting me to stop at the Residency. On my way to the Residency, I found the bazaars to be long and broad, well built of brick, and arched over so as to exclude the sun. The ordinary streets are narrow and for the most part unpaved, but they are kept tolerably clean. The houses are all built on the same plan; there is a square courtyard in the centre, around the four sides of which the rooms are built in two or three storeys, some of them being quite open to the courtyard, from which comes the light and air. Few windows look out on the narrow, dismal streets. The roofs are all flat and the population sleep upon them during the summer. While the great heat lasts, the citizens of Baghdad spend the day in the *serdaubs* - underground rooms which the prosaic might call cellars. *Serdaub* is a compound Persian word signifying literally "cold water", which, being thus rendered cool, becomes a place of refuge from the intolerable heat. The nights are nearly always cool, even in summer, so the *serdaubs* are abandoned in the evening and a general migration takes place from the cellars to the roofs.

Baghdad enjoys very pure and wholesome air, which is constantly renewed from the surrounding desert. During six or eight months the climate is as near perfection as any to be found on this planet. There is even ice in midwinter, and the autumn and spring are lovely. May is not the hottest, but it is the most unpleasant month, for insects of all kinds come forth in myriads and render life a burden. But June's fiercer sun they cannot stand and when July and August drive the citizens to the *serdaubs*, all insects die an unpitied death. The intense dry heat kills them. I chanced to arrive when all is loveliest in the fields and flowers around Baghdad. In the beginning of April the air is perfumed by orange blossoms; the hawthorn is in bloom, violets are not wholly extinct, and crocuses are still to be seen in cool and shady nooks. The green of the young spring foliage is of the freshest: birds sing in the branches and turtle and ring doves on mosque and minaret make the air vocal. The mornings and evenings are cool, not to say cold, and even the midday sun has as yet no terrors for the traveller.

In the courtyards of many of the more important houses, the date-palm and mulberry trees are companions. Part of the city stands on the western bank of the river and a picturesque bridge of boats leads to it. The Tigris here is very wide and deep and flows in a straight line for some miles. Gardens and groves mark the course of the river, north and south, but the plains on the east and on the west are treeless, trackless wastes. Water gathering in great lakes to the westward shows that the Euphrates has again this year burst its banks and is about to inundate the plain and make Baghdad sick with fever in the autumn. As the level of the Euphrates is higher than that of the Tigris, there is some occasion for anxiety lest it should quit its own bed for good and come to share that of the eastern river, drowning the western half of Baghdad on the way. It is difficult to make the banks of the Euphrates sufficiently strong, as there is no proper foundation for the work.

Around the city on the eastern circumference are the old walls, now for the most part dismantled. The bricks of which they were built used at one time to be given to the troops in lieu of their pay, to sell at any price they might command in the market. But that was before the creation of the present efficient army. From the minaret we can see, standing out above the other buildings, the great citadel, which is in very fair condition, and the splendid barracks erected only a few years ago.

In the citadel are some curious brass cannons taken from the Persians, when the Sultan Murad recovered the city from them in 1638. There are bas-reliefs on the pieces, representing a man stabbing a lion. A British gun is also amongst the curiosities, but how it came there I could not learn.



Yasser Arafat and Karol Wojtyla. Two of a kind.

structed all Jewish communities around the world to boycott any meetings with the Pope as an expression of anguish and moral distress at the failure by the Catholic Church authorities to honour the two-year commitment to remove the Carmelite convent from Auschwitz.

The continuing offence is further compounded by the fact that the nuns at that convent pray every day for the posthumous conversion to Christianity of the souls of the Jewish martyrs who perished there. The Pope has failed to stop or condemn this outrageous practice.

Although Hitler's holocaust did not directly affect our Community, we continue to feel outraged by its magnitude and savagery and the indifference to it of the nations of Europe.

N.E.D.

LETTERS

Mr. David Ainsworth, who is a reader of *The Jewish Commentary*, and a personal friend of the writer, has been passing on some issues of *The Scribe*.

We have arrangements with a number of Jewish publications in various parts of the world and reprint selected articles. Your publication is so well written and contains material of so high a standard that we should like to have a similar arrangement with you.

If you are agreeable, we should like your permission to reprint articles, with due acknowledgement, and enter into a reciprocal exchange of subscriptions.

Rose Bay, Mark M. Braham
New South Wales Editor
The Jewish Commentary

Scribe: Permission given ●

I was recently at my sister-in-law's house and she showed me your newsletter *The Scribe*, the journal of Babylonian Jewry. It was most interesting and very informative. My family is also from Iraq, so it was very informing to read about people we know, etc. I was also raised in Manchester and moved to New York when I got married, so even more I enjoyed reading it. I would be most appreciative if you would put me on your mailing list ●

Harrison, N.Y. Anne Lawi

A friend of mine, Mr. Eitan Shamash, gave me No. 33 of *The Scribe*. I was very happy to read it. Every article of the *Scribe* is interesting. The variety of the articles, which are deep in meaning, attracts the reader.

I would be much obliged to you if you put my name in the mailing list ●

Qiryat Ono, Israel Yehuda Barshan

Your *Scribe* is a very special gift to each and every Iraqi home. The children shared with me the enjoyment of reading the Baghdadi wisdom section, some of which brought a smile to my heart remembering my beautiful and cheerful Mama Toba. As children she used to tell us some of those sayings and they did imprint some special values in us ●

Montreal Simha Peress

We always marvel at the information you seem to have at the tip of your fingers – not only academic and historical facts, but about "our crowd" all over the globe. What a commitment. Please keep up the good work ●

Evanston, Ill. Edward & Evelyn Shuker

It has been always a pleasure to receive *The Scribe*. The wealth of history and tradition you give us with every copy uplifts us and brings us closer to our roots ●

W. Australia Hyim S. Tweg

I enjoy reading *The Scribe* and learning all about our people. I was born in Israel; my parents come from Iraq.

I enjoy and like the recipes written by Alice Shashou, and especially her tips ●

Ramat Gan Ilana David

Your article "The Cairo Conference of 1921" is excellent, well written and should be distributed to all libraries and institutions. The information it contained is well researched and documented and is an excellent source of information for those interested in history.

Some of the facts mentioned, although known to Iraqi Jews of our generation, should be handed down to the generations to come.

The Scribe has become a rallying point for all Jews of Iraqi origin and I hope you will continue your good work ●

Montreal Yusuf Meer

Mr. Dov Sherf's letter in your March issue refers to "Raise a Child in Israel" as a blessed project. This terminology is unfitting. A blessed project is that of establishing a factory or investing in existing concerns most needed by Israel in this difficult period she is passing on all fronts – political, economic and social. May this call reach the ears of those who care for Israel's well-being and progress.

I found your 2-page article "The New Ottoman Empire" in the issue of October 1988 highly interesting. Would you permit a Hebrew translation of it to be published in an Israeli paper here? ●

Ramat Gan Abraham Meir Yadid

Scribe: Permission given ●

The welcoming address that Naim gave to the Ambassador was truly excellent and I am sure was greatly appreciated by all who were present. The points made on the "missing dimension" has not been an issue that received the publicity and notice that it clearly deserves. I wish you well in your efforts to bring this important matter to the notice of our politicians ●

Manchester J. Gradel

Your bulletin is informative and amusing; the humoristic *contretemps* on the merits of "hamin" and "dafina" was a special laugh.

I am here with the courtesy of the Singapore Government propagating an old/new-fangled species called counter-trade. We are among the first in S.E. Asia and enjoying the stimulating environment.

We have a small local community of about 250 Jews in number, mostly originating from Iraq, which has been increased by an equal number of Israelis.

Irma and myself are core members, she very active on the Jewish Welfare Board and myself reviving our Jewish youth over here and leading a team, the first from Singapore to the Israel Maccabiah (XIII) July 1989. It will indeed be very difficult to emulate the last team I led from India in 1957, where a team of 5 participants came back with 3 gold and 3 silver medals.

Singapore Sam Marshall

It is interesting to note that a Bombay Jew of Baghdadian origin, Adrian Ezra, aged 18, is the Squash Champion of India, junior and senior, who may be included in the British Maccabi Team – Editor ●

I was pleased to see the photograph and read about the Service held in January at Bevis Marks Synagogue to commemorate the brutal hanging in Baghdad of nine innocent Jews 20 years ago. To those of us who went, it was an extremely well-attended Service with representations from all sections of the Anglo-Jewry community.

I would not like your readers to be misled, however. The sponsoring organisations were the Spanish & Portuguese Jewish Congregation, London, the Zionist Federation, TA'ALI – World Movement for a United Israel and the Sephardi Federation of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. The co-organisers were Percy Gourney and the undersigned ●

TA'ALI and the Sidney L. Shipton
Sephardi Federation Executive Director
of G.B.

Many thanks for sending me your journal regularly. The pleasant production and the contents enable many of us to get more acquainted with the great tradition and heritage of Iraqi Jewry ●

Bachad Fellowship Arieh L. Handler
Friends of Bnei Akiva, Chairman
London NW6

You are bigoted war-mongers. As a true friend of Israel I wish to inform you that "Peace Now" is a non-party movement founded in Israel in 1978. Since then it has organised opposition to Jewish settlements on the West Bank, protested against the invasion of Lebanon and presses the government towards the peace process.

Anonymous

Scribe: Anyone who says that Arabs can live in Israel but that Jews cannot live among the Arabs invalidates all his arguments. There are some people who care more about Arabs than about Jews of Arab lands ●



Saeed Bershan in Moscow. This bell was rung in sub-zero weather, and a piece fell off!



Born in Hong Kong, Lord (Lawrence) Kadoorie recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Here he is seen with his father, Sir Elly Kadoorie (both wearing hats), and his brother Horace, who is made Knight Bachelor in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, on a visit to Meir Elias Hospital in Baghdad in 1925, with the Community notables. Congratulations to both brothers from the Exilarch's Foundation.

It is said that if China sneezes, Hong Kong catches a cold. If China catches a cold, what would happen to Hong Kong? Lord Kadoorie looks forward to the future with optimism.

COOKERY CORNER

SUMMER SALADS

by Alice Shashou

Iraqi Cabbage Salad:

2lb shredded cabbage, 1½ cup lemon juice
1½ cup orange juice, 5 tablespoons sugar
Salt to taste

Sprinkle the shredded cabbage with salt and leave in a colander for one or two hours. Press liquid out by taking a handful at a time and squeezing out the liquid until it is totally limp.

Put in a bowl. Mix the juices with salt and the sugar and add to the cabbage. Taste and adjust. Cover and refrigerate. It takes a few days to get the right taste. It will keep for a week.

Researchers have discovered that the chemical indole, largely present in cabbage, can stimulate the natural defence mechanisms of the body to resist cancers. Therefore, it is a powerful medicine. To eat it three times a week is good.

Pepper Salad:

2lb coloured peppers, green, red and yellow
1 cup white wine vinegar, 1½ cups water
Salt to taste, 3 tablespoons sugar

Slice the peppers lengthways in wide sections.

Boil the vinegar, water, salt and sugar. Add the cut peppers and boil once. Let it simmer for 10 minutes. It should be cooked, but not soft. Pour into a jar. When cold, refrigerate until required. It will keep for 2 months or more if kept tightly closed.

Iraqi Cucumber Salad:

2lb small cucumbers, unpeeled (if the skin seems thin and tender) and thinly sliced.
Salt

½ cup white wine vinegar, ½ cup water
1 teaspoon sugar, 1 green pepper

Cut cucumbers and put in a colander. Sprinkle with salt and let stand for 30-40 minutes. Boil vinegar with the water, sugar, salt and green pepper. Leave to cool. Discard green pepper. Press the cucumbers between your fingers till limp. Put in a salad bowl. Add the cooled vinegar. Adjust to taste.

Keep in a fridge till needed.

Coleslaw salad:

1 small white cabbage
1 carrot, grated
1 green pepper de-seeded then finely sliced
3 celery stalks cut fine
3 tablespoons white wine vinegar
5 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon caster sugar
3 tablespoons mayonnaise
Salt and pepper to taste

Shred the cabbage very finely with a

knife or food processor. Mix with the carrot, celery and green pepper.

Blend all the seasonings with the mayonnaise in a large mixing bowl.

Add the salad ingredients – cabbage, carrot, green pepper and celery – and turn with a spoon and fork until well coated. Taste and correct seasoning. Refrigerate until required.

Coleslaw is best made 4-6 hours in advance. It keeps crisp for 2 days.

Chick-peas Salad:

2 cups chick-peas
2 green peppers, 2 red peppers
4 cloves garlic, crushed
1 cup chopped parsley
½ teaspoon jeera or cumin
4 small pickled cucumbers, finely chopped
Salt, freshly milled black pepper to taste

Soak chick-peas overnight in half teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda and boil till cooked. Take peel out.

De-seed peppers, remove pith and cut into julienne strips about ¼" thick with a sharp knife.

Mix chick-peas, garlic, parsley, cucumbers and peppers. Add salt, jeera and pepper. Mix well.

Add vinaigrette of your choice.

Add enough of the dressing to moisten the salad without soaking it.

A variation – instead of chick-peas, use fried small cut aubergine●