IN THIS ISSUE

At the head of this issue (No. 17) there is an essay by Abba Kovner. The contents were the subject of an address given at the meeting of the executive committee and members of Hakibbutz Haartzi Hashomer Hatzair held at Kibbutz Ha'ogen in June '73 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the uprisal of the ghetto.

Under this head we print:

The diary of a Lithuanian doctress, Helena Kotergeine. Her notes reflect a noble spirit, a gentile friend of Jews, who gives vent to the terrible shock she experienced as witness of the situation of Jews and their fate in the Ghetto of Kovno under Nazi occupation. Kotergeine describes in extenso the part both Lithuanians and Germans took in the pogroms and the murders she witnessed even before the ghetto had been established. When the Jews were shut up in the ghetto, contacts were cut off increasingly, but Kotergeine's thoughts kept wandering to her Jewish friends and in her writings, events within that pent-up community are reverberating.

Parts of this diary were published, in 1968, in the Soviet periodical *Drushba Narodov* (Friendship between nations). The full text of the chapters printed there has been translated here. Dr. Benjamin Blodz, a veteran physician of Kovno, who lives in Israel and who knew Dr. Kotergeine well, has written an introduction and some explanatory remarks.

M. Pomerantz, who took part in the Polish campaign in September 1939, describes his Odyssey, how he reached the town of Kowel, that was annexed by the Russians, and the situation as it developed there to the time of the German invasion in June '41. The chapter printed here is part of a voluminous manuscript, dealing with the experience of the author throughout the war and the holocaust.

We bring in this issue the first part of a comprehensive research by Yoav Gelber on "Policy and the 'Transfer' agreement", signed by Jewish representatives and the Nazi authorities in 1933. The research deals with all aspects of this agreement; with the arguments and the heated controversy aroused by the agreement in the various Jewish communities as well as with German interests and hesitations. The 'Transfer' was a much-discussed

topic in its day and caused commotion in public opinion. The subject has been dealt with before — in part — (the late Dr. Shaul Ash began to write a comprehensive research work on the Transfer agreement, but he was unable to complete it), so Gelber's work is the first attempt to deal with this complex matter comprehensively.

Yoav Gelber's research was submitted as a thesis in the seminary for the history of the Jewish People under the guidance of Prof. S. Ettinger at the Hebrew University. The second part will be printed in the next issue of the Yalkut.

We bring a further and final instalment of the memoirs of S. Stern, head of the Hungarian Jewish Council in the days of the holocaust. The first part of these memoirs has been published in our previous issue. Tzvi Erez of Kibbutz Dvir has added an introduction and remarks to the translation.

Ester Mark, who is engaged in research work on behalf of the Diaspora House, the Tel-Aviv University, published an original document on the fate of the prisoners and of men transports at the concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz.

The document was written by an unknown author, disguised under the name of an S.S. officer at the camp; In it we find many authentic facts on what happened inside the camp. The document was smuggled out and brought to the knowledge of the free world during the war.

Israel Guttman writes remarks of appreciation and also of criticism — on the collected works of the historian of the holocaust, the late Shaul Ash.

Otto Dov Kulka, of the Hebrew University, publishes a number of hitherto unknown documents on the attempt made during the first months of German occupation of the Protectorate to collect the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia in the city of Prague. The attempt, planned by the S.D. staff (Sicherheitsdienst) failed.

In an article published together with the documents Dov Kulka explains the background of the events and the reasons that caused the plan to be abandoned. He also adds explanatory footnotes to the documents.

The letter of Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, to Abba Kovner was written at the time of the visit of Chancelor Willi Brandt in Israel. The letter is published in this issue for the benefit of our readers.

Edited by:

Yehuda Bauer, Shalom Cholavsky, Israel Gutman, Rozka Korczak, Abba Kovner, Yehuda Tubin

> Published by Moreshet & Sifriat Poalim

> > All rights reserved ©

Printed in Israel

Y A L K U T MORESHET

PERIODICAL

No. 17

January 1974

