

First Artist from Israel to Visit South Africa.

Pnina Salzman Interviewed.

Pnina Salzman, the well-known pianist, is the first artist from the State of Israel to visit the Union. When she was here on her highly successful tour in 1944, she was the first Palestinian artist to have performed in South Africa.

In an interview with a representative of the "S.A. Jewish Chronicle," Miss Salzman said she was very reluctant to leave Israel in these critical days and felt that the place of all young people was in their own land. Her tour had been arranged some time ago, however, and the authorities in Israel actually encouraged her to come, as they believed her visit would serve to show that, in spite of war, the cultural life of the people continued unabated.

Miss Salzman said she had left Tel Aviv before the first air raid took place, but she was certain that this had not affected the morale of the people, which was exceedingly high. They were imbued with a spirit of courage, optimism and love of the land; parents, in spite of their grief, were proud of their children who made the supreme sacrifice in battle for land and liberty.

Miss Salzman said she was very pleased to be revisiting South Africa. South African Jewry had a very high reputation in Israel. They should realise that, whatever they did for the country, was an investment for life

and would be of ultimate advantage to themselves.

Since her first visit to South Africa Miss Salzman has toured Australia, New Zealand, France, England, Bel-



Pnina Salzman.

gium, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Germany, where she played for D.P.'s and occupation troops. Everywhere she has been warmly acclaimed. She is due to visit England again towards the end of the year.

Dr. Magnes Registers as Agent of Ihud Association.

Washington.

Dr. J. L. Magnes has registered with the Department of Justice as an agent of the Ihud Association of Jerusalem, which "favours the establishment of a bi-national Arab-Jewish State in Palestine," the Department announced.

"Dr. Magnes declared that his purpose is to advocate Arab-Jewish co-operation and to form a group to aid in this work," the announcement states. Dr. Magnes registered under terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, which requires registration with the Justice Department of all representatives in this country of foreign principals.—J.T.A.

FROM MY DESK.

(Continued from Fourth Column.)

a desire to participate in the facilities offered by an organisation which has no money but an abundance of energy and well meaning. A phone call to 2-4330 will elicit all the required information.

Bearded.

A story which has just come from Tel Aviv concerns a little boy of about 10 who had but recently arrived there from a Russian-influenced zone of Europe. On the day of the proclamation of the State of Israel, Tel Aviv was decorated with many large-scale pictures of Jewish national figures, notably reproductions of the photograph of Theodor Herzl. The pictures were, banner-like, strung right across the streets or hung from balconies. The youngster gazed in ever-growing amazement and then, thinking of what he could most remember of Europe, exclaimed to his mother: "Look, Mummy, pictures of Stalin with a beard!"

Jewish Victory Predicted by Dr. J. McDonald.

New York.

The prediction that Jews will win the war in Palestine was made here by Dr. James G. McDonald, former member of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine, upon his return from a three-month tour of Europe and Africa.

Dr. McDonald, who visited Egypt, accused King Farouk of utilising the Palestine war for the purpose of imposing restrictions upon the people of his country, who are dissatisfied with his regime. "The Republic of Israel will survive its fight for existence, but only after a long, hard pull," he said.—J.T.A.

Polish Socialists in Exile Welcome Creation of Jewish State.

London.

At a conference of the Polish Socialist Party in exile, held recently in Pont-a-Lesse, Belgium, with the participation of delegates from Great Britain, France, Belgium and other countries, a resolution was adopted welcoming the establishment of the Jewish State of Israel in Palestine.

"The world has come to realise that the self-sacrificing efforts of the Jewish workers and farmers in Palestine, who, in the course of the past decades, have overcome superhuman obstacles in their fight against nature and have created new economic, social and cultural values, have gained them the right to Jewish statehood on the territories which the partition plan has allocated to the Jewish State," the resolution says. At the same time it expresses the hope that bloodshed in Palestine may cease and good neighbourly relations develop between the Jewish and Arab populations.

The resolution was proposed by M. Adam Ciolkosz, who was a member of the Polish Government in exile in London.—J.T.A.

From my Desk

... By ...

HASOFER



"Veiled and Curtained."

In the immediate post-war period we heard and read much of metaphorical curtains. The occurrences behind "iron" or "silken" curtains afforded political writers and observers much food for speculation, and even more for conjecture. To-day there is another curtain, the presence and influence of which is even more felt, and this not consciously. Whilst not so impenetrable, the "paper" curtain is one which, whilst not entirely veiling the light of truth, distorts and twists such few rays as filter through into anything but their true form. Enough of this allegorical reference. What is it?—this new "paper" curtain; surely it must be made of a substance that can easily be torn asunder. This "paper" curtain is my own term for the peculiar form of self-imposed censorship which, for reasons of their own political expediency, many members of the general press have of late had recourse to, so as to give an entirely untrue picture of the state of affairs in Israel.

Anything But.

With the state of war, the almost scorched earth policy which had been part of the programme of the previous unsympathetic administration, postal service, and telegraphic communications were naturally disrupted. In the ensuing disorganisation it was virtually impossible for the news to get through. We are, in the main, dependent upon biased newspaper reports and broadcasts for information of the day-by-day progress and trend of events. How biased some of these broadcasts are can be gauged from last Thursday night's Radio News Reel "feature" when one of the correspondents actually praised those who considered aiding Egypt's cause. I was privileged, in the last few days, to discuss the situation with recently-arrived intelligent observers. Their helpfulness was stimulating, and their assistance in interpreting even the scant news into its proper perspective was such that I am constrained, in all good faith and sincerity, to do what I can to dispel the doubts of those who have doubts, and to assure whom I can—ours will be the ultimate victory and that "be-karov be-yameinu" we will see the fulfilment of our age-old yearnings!

Date Line.

Obviously not all documents nor every bit of information can be made general, but sufficient have been let out for those who care to view them in their proper perspective to be genuinely hopeful. Speaking of documents and letters, I am certain that stamp collectors throughout the world will soon be vying with one another for the acquisition of "early" postal covers issued on the day after the proclamation of the Jewish State. Their value is all the more enhanced by the fact that, as I understand, the first day's cancellation bore the words "Medina Ivri" as against the current "Medinat Yisroel." I know of one letter, true it was written in this country, but it was written by Dr. MacDonald. For his date line he had the following: "May 20th, 1948, 5th Day of the State of Israel."

When Thieves Fall Out.

I have, on a previous occasion in reply to a question, stated that it is a columnist's job to cull from all sources

such items and tit-bits of information as his readers would not normally read. One of the juicy pieces I came across this week concerns the Ku Klux Klan. This anti-Semitic organisation, as is well known, insists that its members go about their nefarious activities robed and hooded in grotesque garb. A one-time Klanner, Stetson Kennedy, special consultant of the American non-sectarian anti-Nazi league, who joined the Klan to expose it, says a New York outfitter had offered to duplicate his robe of "better material" for just under four dollars. The Klan price for these robes, when bought through the "official" channels of the "Grand Dragon" in Atlanta, is nearly four times as much. Accusing the Dragon, which is the equivalent title for the commanding officer for the district, Kennedy says not only does he make a profit of upwards of 300 per cent., but this profit is further enhanced by the purchase of the material wholesale from a "Brother Klansman" who owns a textile mill in the next county.

Schooling.

I intend in this paragraph to make my last reference for at least twelve months to Shavuot, and the Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Fifteen girls, who had completed the Board of Education's Bat Mitzvah syllabus, participated in an impressive ceremony in the Great Synagogue last Sunday morning. At the subsequent Brocha, when the congregation's committee was "at home" to the girls, their parents and teachers, Dr. Resnekor made what I think was an extremely timely appeal for support of the Hebrew Day School. I am not sure that the Principal of the School will particularly like me for the suggestion I am about to make. I would advise parents who are thinking of sending their children to school for the first time in 1949, now six months beforehand, to pay a visit to the Herzlia Day School in Hope Street. They will be convinced, before they make up their minds about sending their offspring to any other school, that they cannot do better than enrol them in the Day School. Incidentally, Miss Sheila Lanzkowsky, a teacher at the Talmud Torah who herself not so many years ago participated in the Bat Mitzvah ceremony, prepared most of the current batch of Bnot Mitzvah for their confirmation.

Daber Ivrit!

Hebrew education has somehow always been the Cinderella of our communal responsibilities. Not only does it not receive the financial support that is warranted, because unfortunately it cannot, by virtue of heart-throbbing sentimental appeal, claim that support which charitable endeavour can command, but it does not even receive the support by way of pupils that it deserves. The Histadrut Ivrit maintains adult classes which are not even attended by one-tenth of the number that was pessimistically anticipated. In these days, when we should be prouder than ever not only to know but also speak our own language, this is to be deeply regretted. It is hoped that more pupils will evince

(Continued in First Column.)