

Șef Rabin dr. MOSES ROSEN

MOȘE ȘI LIMITELE MODESTIEI

Fragmente dintr-o predică rostită de Eminența Sa,
sîmbătă 11 iunie 1983, la Templul Coral

„Și omul Moșe a fost cel mai modest dintre oamenii de pe suprafața pămîntului“ (Numeri 12,3).

Caracteristica esențială a citorului iudaismului este deci modestia. Legislatorul, comandantul de oști, învățătorul, judecătorul, gospodarul și cite și mai cite calități, toate duse la superlativ, toate se eclipsază în fața aceleia a modestiei lui Moșe.

Și totuși... Îl zărim în pericopa acestui Șabat „KORACH“ într-o ipostază cu totul diferită și, la prima privire, de neînțeles. Korach și acoliții săi se revoltă împotriva lui Moșe și a lui Aron. Le reproșează că au monopolizat puterea lumescă și cea spirituală. Korach vîntură lozinci demagogice și le îmbină cu o încercare de discreditare a marelui nostru învățător. Ei nu se abdică însă întru nimic, nici de Dumnezeu, nici de a sa învățătură. Dimpotrivă. În numele Său și al Torei, ei săvîrșesc, utilizînd un limbaj modern, tentativa de „lovitură de stat“.

Și totuși... Moșe ia o poziție de neasemuit cu cele pe care le-a luat cînd cu păcatul vițelului de aur sau cu cel al calomniatorilor Eretz-Israelului. Fără cruțare, fără milă el cere lui Dumnezeu „să-și deschidă gura spre a-i înghiți“ un test al adevărului învățăturii sale. „Dacă acești oameni vor muri ca toți ceilalți oameni, atunci aceasta înseamnă că nu Dumnezeu m-a trimis către voi“. Numai pedapsa cumplită, imediată, va demonstra că el, Moșe, e conducătorul și învățătorul cel adevărat (Numeri 16,29).

Atacul contra Dumnezeului Unic, acela împotriva Țării Făgăduinței se cereau iertate, iar acela împotriva lui Moșe nu merita nici o clemență? Unde e modestia lui Moșe?

În realitate, însă, Moșe a sesizat esența tentativei lui Korach. Aici nu era vorba numai de persoana sa, ci de însuși viitorul lui Israel, care nu va putea fi chezașuit decît de unitatea sa.

A sparge această unitate, a submina autoritatea lui Moșe, cel care o simboliza, a fărâmița poporul în grupuri setoase de bogăție și putere însemna a lipsi poporul de un ideal, a-i slăbi suportul moral și astfel a-l osîndi la o dezagregare menită a-l readuce în țărurile robiei.

De data aceasta crucea vinovaților era nocivă. Adevărul, bietul adevăr, amenințat de toți demagogii și vinătorii de putere, trebuie salvat printr-o demonstrație promptă și convingătoare.

Modestia lui Moșe a ajuns la un punct în care, din supremă calitate, amenința să devină defect catastrofal. Un conducător de obște trebuie — așa ne învață Moșe — să dea modestia la o parte, atunci cînd în joc sînt interesele vitale ale colectivității.

O legendă talmudică completează pasagiul biblic privitor la Korach, spunînd că :

„Din mormîntul lui Korach, veac de veac și an de an, se aude glasul fiilor săi care strigă

משה אמת ותורתו אמת וראים „Moșe e Adevărul; Învățătura sa e Adevărul, iar noi sîntem mincișoși“.

În marea bătlăie în slujba adevărului, Moșe a învins de data aceasta, pentru că a avut bunul simț să știe pînă unde trebuie să meargă și unde trebuie să se oprească modestia.

PRIMIRE LA PREȘEDINTELE NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU

Di Nicolae Ceaușescu, președintele Republicii Socialiste România, a primit, la 31 mai 1983, pe Arthur Schneier, președintele Fundației „Apelul pentru conștiință“ din S.U.A., care a făcut o vizită în țara noastră.

La primire a participat Ștefan Andrei, ministrul afacerilor externe.

Oaspetele a mulțumit pentru primirea acordată și și-a exprimat satisfacția de a se reintîlni cu șeful statului român.

În cursul convorbirii au fost abordate probleme legate de dezvoltarea relațiilor româno-americane și unele aspecte ale vieții internaționale actuale și indeosebi ale situației din Orientul Mijlociu.

Intrevederea s-a desfășurat într-o atmosferă cordială.

VIZITA DLUI RABIN ARTHUR SCHNEIER

Di Arthur Schneier, Rabinul Sinagogii „Park-East“, președintele secției nord-americane a Congresului Mondial Evreiesc și Președintele Fundației ecumenice „Appeal for Conscience“, a făcut o scurtă vizită în țara noastră în zilele de 30—31 mai 1983.

D-sa a fost primit în audiență de către domnul Președinte al Republicii Socialiste România, Nicolae Ceaușescu.

Di Rabin Arthur Schneier a participat, de asemenea, la o masă oferită în cinstea d-sale de către Di Președinte al Departamentului Cultelor, Ion Roșianu.

Dna Maria Groza, adjunct al ministrului de externe, a oferit, de asemenea, un prînz în cinstea d-sale.

În aceeași zi, dl Rabin A. Schneier a fost primit, într-o atmosferă frățească, de Prea Fericitul Justin, Patriarhul Bisericii Ortodoxe Române. La primire a participat dl. Ion Roșianu, președintele Departamentului Cultelor.

Eminența Sa dl Șef Rabin dr. Moses Rosen a avut o întrevedere cordială cu dl Rabin Schneier, în cabinetul d-sale. A avut loc un prietenesc schimb de vederi în legătură cu problemele la ordinea zilei din viața evreiască.

Vizita unor delegații ale iudaismului european

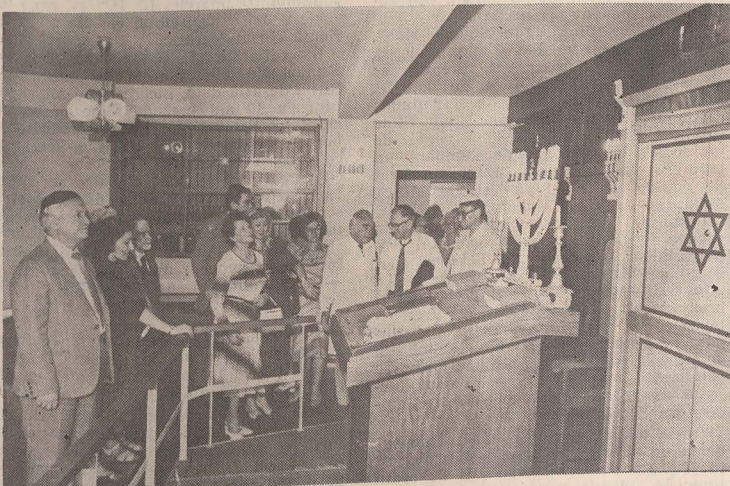
În prima jumătate a lunii iunie a.c., Comunitatea evreiască din România a primit trei vizite frățești. Prima, din partea Comitetului social al CONSILIULUI EUROPEAN PENTRU SERVICIILE COMUNITARE, care a trimis aici un număr important de activiști sociali, spre a studia modul de organizare a activității de asistență socială a comunității noastre. A doua vizită, organizată de dl Șef Rabin Mordehai Piron (Zürich) a reprezentat iudaismul elvețian, 36 de membri ai Comunității evreiești din Zürich, venind aici, la îndemnul conducătorului lor spiritual, spre a vedea aspecte ale vieții evreiești din România care l-au impresionat pe d-sa la vizita pe care a făcut-o aici în urmă cu aproape doi ani.

A participat și o delegație a Consistoriului Religios al Evreilor din Bulgaria. Vineri 3 iunie, după amiază, a sosit delegația Consiliului European. Seara oaspeții au fost salutați de Eminența Sa în cadrul predicii roșite la serviciul divin de Kabalat Șabat (publicăm, în p. 11, fragmente din această predică). A răspuns dl Weil, vorbind în numele delegației Consiliului de conducere pentru asistență socială din Londra. În conti-

nuare oaspeții au participat la o masă festivă de Șabat, împreună cu conducătorii Federației Comunităților Evreiești și ai Comunității evreilor din București și cu un mare număr de devotați slujitori ai instituțiilor noastre de cult, cultură iudaică și asistență socială și numeroși distinși intelectuali. Au participat membri ai Ambasadei Israelului în frunte cu dl și dna ambasador Zvi Brosh. Eminența Sa dl Șef Rabin dr. Moses Rosen a rostit o impresionantă alocuțiune. Au luat cuvîntul Excelența Sa dl Zvi Brosh, ambasadorul statului Israel și dna Nicole Goldmann, director în Consiliul European al Serviciilor Comunitare Evreiești. Corul Talmud Tora, sub conducerea dlui M. Damian, a susținut un bogat program de cîntece tradiționale, mult apreciat de cei prezenți.

Sîmbătă 4 iunie, oaspeții au participat la serviciul divin de la Templul Coral și la un Kiduş oferit în cinstea lor. În continuare Eminența Sa a făcut o expunere cu privire la Comunitatea evreiască

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Oaspeții vizitează sinagoga din Căminul „Amalia și Șef Rabin dr. Moses Rosen“



În timpul unei ședințe de lucru cu reprezentanți ai Consiliului European pentru Serviciile Comunitare

30 de zile de la trecerea sa în lumea celor drepti

La împlinirea a 30 de zile (șloșim) de la trecerea în lumea celor drepti a rabinului dr. Wolf Gottlieb...

În ziua independenței (5 Iiar 5743) a decedat, la Ierusalim, unul dintre puținii care au reprezentat Tora și Măreția...

Rabinul dr. Zeev Gottlieb s-a născut în luna Nisan 5610, ca fiu al rabinului Moșe Leib și al rabinesei Fruma...

În anii 1936-38, rabinul Gottlieb a slujit în comunitatea „Ansei Emet” și „Neve Șalom” din Viena...

În cursul războiului, rabinul Gottlieb s-a ocupat cu munca educativă la Londra, la „Board of Education”...

În anul 1950, rabinul Gottlieb a fost numit în postul de șef-rabin la Glasgow, Scoția...

A stat în legătură strinsă cu rabinul Hertzog, care l-a apreciat mult. Rabinul Gottlieb a scris diverse cărți...

A venit în Israel în anul 1977 și s-a stabilit la Ierusalim, unde a lucrat, tot restul vieții, la Institutul „Rav Kook”...

A lăsat un manuscris despre „Pirkei de-rabi Eliezer” și această carte va apărea curând.

Ca prieten apropiat, care m-am întâlnit cu el zilnic și am avut plăcerea să-i ascult cuvintele înțelepte...

A mers în drumul său pe drumul drept și faptele sale au fost încă și mai multe decât bogata-i înțelepciune.

Am iubit omul pentru noblețea sufletului său și pentru comportarea sa etică. Aș îndrăzni să spun că a fost unul dintre cei 36 de fadikim...

Vom regreta veșnic pe cei ce se pierd și nu pot fi uitați!

MOȘE KALECHHEIM

Din istoria Șabatului în antichitatea greco-romană

Săptămîna are șapte zile, iar a șaptea e înscrisă în calendar cu litere roșii. Șase zile se lucrează, în a șaptea — nu.

Și totuși... Oricît de ciudat ne-ar părea, „săptămîna” ca unitate de timp apare în istorie odată cu Șabatul...

Greii au putea, astăzi, cînd odihna săptămînală este consfințită de toate religiile și de toate legislațiile civilizate...

Pragul contact direct între Israel și un popor cu o civilizație superioară are loc odată cu invazia lui Alexandru Macedon în Orient.

Greții considerau că tocmai Șabatul este cea instituită prin care, în principal, se deosebesc evreii de greci. Este de înțeles că, dintre toate obiceiurile evreiești...

Documente relativ tirzii ne vorbesc despre răspîndirea extraordinară a repausului sabbatic printre greci. Aflăm, de pildă, că în sinagogile din Alexandria și din Siria...

Cam în jurul anului 100 i.e.a., săptămîna evreiască a fost cunoscută și adoptată în multe provincii orientale, orelundu-se de către acestea — odată cu unitatea fracțională a lunii — și respectarea zilei de odihnă.

Vedem deci că masele mari au acceptat instituția odihnei săptămînale îndată ce au dat de ea.

Să vedem cum reacționază autorii neevrei în fața acestui fenomen.

Poetul Horatius (65-8 I.e.a.) ne prezintă, într-o satiră plină de umor, pe un vestea prietenului său Fuscus...

Persius (34-62 e.a.) satirizează, în meni deosebit de incisiv, obiceiurile sabbatice ca: aprinderea luminilor, asuzul pestelui și al vinului etc.

Paulus apostolul discută în sinagogile din Atena, în zilele de Șabat, cu filozofii greci. Mai tirziu, obiceiul de a frecventa sinagogile pentru a asista la predicile de Șabat se răspîndește atît de mult în Roma...

Constatăm deci că, deși neînțeleasă unora de „intelectuali” cu diverse concepții filozofice „superioare”, importanța sabbatului — dacă nu și religioasă — a repausului săptămînal a fost întuită de mase populare deosebit de importante.

Remarcăm, de asemenea, surprinzătoare superficialitate cu care autorii tirzini din acele vremuri se apropie de cercetarea obiceiurilor și instituțiilor religioase și juridice evreiești.

Răspîndirea — aproape universală — a zilei de odihnă săptămînală confirmă astăzi într-un mod strălucit — în fața speculațiilor filozofice — intuiția sănătoasă a maselor.

PORTRETUL UNEI EROINE

S-au împlinit trei ani de la dispariția neuitatei Tzvia Lubetkin, o figură legendară a răscoalei Ghetoului din Varșovia...

Salvată de la moarte printr-o întimplare, s-a strecurat prin conductele subterane de canalizare, după înfrîngerea răscoalei, pînă a ajuns în afara zonei distruse de naștiți.

După eliberare, în 1944, Tzvia Lubetkin s-a stabilit în țara sfîntă, numărîndu-se printre fondatorii kibbutzului „Lohamei Haghetot” („Luptătorii din ghetouri”).

Tzvia Lubetkin a activat cu consecvență în organizațiile combatanților din fostele ghetouri, a condus kibbutz „Hameuhad”, fiind reprezentanta acestuia în Comitetul executiv al Agenției evreiești.

Amintirea ei rămîne un exemplu de devotament și dăruire totală cauzei nobile a luptei pentru libertate.



DECESE

În cimitirele Comunității evreilor din București, în perioada 23. V. — 8. VI. 1983 au fost înhumați următorii:

- Coen Solomon (92 de ani), B-dul N. Titulescu 94; Rorlich Samoil (77), str. Brezoianu 9; Șaraga Lazăr (67), Aleea Circului; Gatlan Roza (79), str. Covasna 15; Goldstein Solomon (94), str. Lucaci 75; Idelovici Rachela (79), str. Șura Mare 113; Rotenberg Aneta (84), str. Galați 35; Alhasid Suzana (78), Petrarii Sura (91), Malamud Zalman (93), Cămin „Amalia și dr. Moses Rosen”; Reiss Magdalena (63), str. Floarea Roșie 7; Gheorghiu Janeta (75), str. 11 Iunie 18; Gluzer Rifea (81), str. Caolinului 2; Pascu Blimuta Bata (70), str. Beldiman 1; Marcu Liba (81), Calea Moșilor 115; Haimovici Aurel (56), str. Aurora 58; Schwartz Samy (71), str. Sfinții Apostoli 59; Herșcovici Mali (76), Aleea Arieșul Mare 2; Marcovici Solomon (86), Bd. Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej 97, Garbenberg Marcel (73), Paves Bertga (83).

La 6 Tamuz (17 iunie) se împlinesc trei ani de la pierderea bunului nostru ing. JEAN WEISSMAN

a cărui amintire va dăinuși veșnic în inimile familiei și prietenilor.

Sînt 6 ani de cînd ne lipsesc chipul luminos și bunătatea nemăsurată ale iubitului nostru

dr. COHN SOLOMON Dorohoi—Iaiși

decedat la 25 Sivan (5 iunie). Nici veșnicia nu este atît de mare ca să poată fi uitat.

Familia

JOURNAL OF THE ROMANIAN JEWS

Chief Rabbi dr. Moses Rosen

BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

Excerpts from the speech made at the Great Synagogue of Jassy on Tuesday 7 June, 1983, in honour of the European Jewish delegations

SONG OR DISCOURSE?

Our Talmud Torah choir of Jassy enchants all of us with its wonderful songs, with its admirable elan, and the hour is late, and the speakers have not yet made their speeches.

A popular Yiddish motto "Tzu zinghen und tzu zugn" defines a situation in which there are many complications and "songs are to be sung and speeches made till the solution is found". There is no doubt, however, that between "tzu zinghen" those who sing and between "tzu zugn" those who speak, there is a one-sided competition. The winged melodies set out from the souls of our youth penetrate into yours quicker and easier than the most ingenious words.

ECCLESIASTES AND THE SONG OF SONGS

The Great Shlomo also wrote "Kohelet" — Ecclesiastes, a highly skilled rhetorical work, and 'Shir Hashirim' — 'The Song of Songs'. He was thus a Rabbi-preacher and Cantor.

When he starts his discourse in the 'Ecclesiastes' to win his audience he had to make a whole auto-biography. People do not have the patience to listen to any speaker. So he speaks *אני קהלת* 'I am Kohelet'. He declines thus his literary pseudonym. He then continues *בן דוד* 'Son of David' showing his genealogy, origin. And then *הייתי מלך* 'I was king' hence insists also on his social rank, and finally *בירושלים* 'in Jerusalem' indicates the locality where he lives and which is the Holy City.

With such a visiting card, the audience say in the end

הכל תכלית הכל תכלית

He concentrates his impression about what he heard in the words "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity". Or, trifles and nonsense, that what all the words I heard are.

And then, the same Shlomo as singer. No need for any auto-biography, no visiting card. The work starts with the words 'The Song of Songs of Shlomo'.

That is sufficient. The song is so eloquent and its power so magical that the audience sums up its impressions in the words *י שקני מנישקות פיהו* 'I almost kissed him' for the lovely way he sang...

That is the reason for which I give up from the onset to compete with this admirable choir and, as such, shall limit my words in order to let them, the youth have the chance to add several more pearls to the necklace of uplifting melodies they have sung.

RABBI AKIVA SMILES

You have come to Jassy one hour ago, dear guests, and stopped at our cemetery. You were shaken and you cried at the common graves of the martyrs of the pogrom of 1941 and prayed for their souls. Then you came straight here and went from one extreme to another. You are in this ancient synagogue, rebuilt in 1672, but dates back centuries before that date. And you almost feel next to you the grand shadows of the great scholars of Judaism, who spread here the light of the Torah. The synagogue is renovated, actually and figuratively. It is bright with lights, also in both meanings, as here are our children, our future, our pride.

The Great Rabbi Akiva — the Talmud tells us — was with his colleagues on top of a hill in Jerusalem and saw wolves among the wrecks of the Temple. It was after our terrible national catastrophe and Akiva's colleagues wept at the sight of such a desolate image. Akiva, however, smiled.

"How is it possible that you smile, Akiva?" they asked him. "How can you smile when you see such disaster?"

"I had two prophecies" he answered. "One by Uria who said *באללכם ציון בשרה* because of your sins Jerusalem will become a ploughland" and one by Zaharia "the time shall come when boys and girls shall dance again on the streets of Jerusalem". I wept enough until the accursed prophecy of Uria was fulfilled. Now? Shall I still weep? No, never. Now that it has been fulfilled I am waiting for Zaharia's prophecy and I can see it coming. That is why I am smiling, my dear ones. Smile, because the bad is past and we have the good before us".

At the cemetery, dear guests, you wept on seeing Uria's prophecy fulfilled, and here, the tears of sorrow will mingle with those of joy, as here before us is Zaharia's prophecy. Here are our boys and girls, gay and smiling, listen to how they sing from the bottom of their hearts their hope, their ideals, the prayers of eternal Israel.

A LITTLE GRAMMAR

Allow me to conclude, and do not be surprised, with a... grammatical analysis. The letter VAV, in Hebrew, has the function of changing the past into future and the future into past. "VAV HAHIPUCH" this letter, placed before the word *היה* "has been" becomes *יהיה* "and shall be", but put before the word *יהי* "shall be" becomes *יהיה* "and has been".

Wherever is written in the Torah *יהי* VAI-EHI "and has been" it refers to a painful moment says the Talmud in Megila Tractate, Folio 10.

But where it is written *יהיה* "VE-HAIA" "and shall be" it refers to joys.

Dramatic, tragic is the function of the letter VAV when it changes the future into past, when it takes our whole vision of the world and makes into a matter of the past, of times of yore, sustaining that it no longer suits the times we live in. This is nothing but pain.

But when the Jews succeed in *יהיה* taking their past (and has been) and put a VAV at the beginning *יהיה*, in changing it into future, then it is *שמחה* an expression of joy, as this means that we take tradition, teaching and ethics of our multi-millenary past and give it to the future, to those who come after us.

Dear representatives of European Jewish congregations, "VAI-HI" — catastrophe, stood before you at the cemetery. Now, look and regard how the traditions of Apter Ruv or Nathan Hannover, of Goldfaden or Karpel Lipe's forerunners are handed over to our youth.

VEHAIA *יהיה* "and shall be". These boys and girls are our joy and we pride ourselves with them.

This is the message you shall be taking with you when you go to your congregations, the message of Romanian Judaism.

CALL ON PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU

Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, received on Tuesday 31 May, 1983, Mr. Arthur Schneier, President of the Appeal for Conscience Foundation of U.S.A. who visited this country. Present on the occasion was Stefan Andrei, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The guest thanked for the reception and

expressed his satisfaction of having met again the head of the Romanian state. During the talk, discussed were problems related to the development of Romanian-U.S. relations and aspects of current international life, especially the situation in the Middle East. The meeting passed in a cordial atmosphere.

VIZIT OF RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Rabbi of the "Park-East" Synagogue, Chairman of the North American section of the World Jewish Congress and President of the Appeal for Conscience Ecumenical Foundation, paid a short visit to this country on 30 and 31 May, 1983. The guest was received in audience by President Nicolae Ceausescu of the Socialist Republic of Romania. Rabbi Arthur Schneier also took part at a dinner given in his honour by Mr. Ion Roşianu, Chairman of the Department of Cults.

Mrs. Maria Groza, deputy minister of foreign affairs also gave a lunch in his honour. The same day, Rabbi A. Schneier was received in a fraternal atmosphere by His Beatitude Justin, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church. Present on the occasion was Mr. Ion Roşianu, Chairman of the Department of Cults. His Eminence, Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen had a cordial meeting with Rabbi Schneier, in his office. A friendly exchange of views was held on current matters of Jewish life.

VISIT OF EUROPEAN JEWISH DELEGATIONS

In the first half of June, 1983, the Jewish Community of Romania received three fraternal visits. The first, from the social committee of the European Council for Community Services, that sent an important number of social workers to study the organisation of social assistance activity in our community. The second visit, organised by Rabbi Mordehai Piron of Zurich, represented Swiss Jews; 36 members of the Jewish Community of Zurich came, encouraged by their spiritual leader, to see Jewish life in Romania which impressed him during the visit he paid here almost two years ago. A delegation of Religious Consistory of Jews of Bulgaria also took part.

The guests visited Jewish religious and cultural institutes, social assistance institutions in Bucharest and in some provincial communities. They met community members in Dorohoi, Botoşani and Jassy, and our coreligionists of Zurich visited also Braşov. The European Jewish delegations took part in Divine services at the Choral Temple and at Oneg-Sabbath meals, which were also attended by members of the Israel Embassy at head with His Excellency Zvi Brosh, Ambassador of the State of Israel.

The Talmud Torah choirs gave a fine programme of Jewish traditional and folk songs. His Eminence welcomed those present and spoke of the community life throughout the country. His Eminence also said the wise "Divra Torah" at Oneg Sabbath and Kidush.

Speakers for the guests were: Mr. Anthony Kraiss (England), Mr. Malvyn Carlowe (England), Miss Cecile Mizrahi (Joint), and Mrs. Edith Kremsdorf (F.S.J.U. — Paris). Speakers during discussions were: Mrs. Loty Reich (Belgium), Mr. Herbert Kellener (Belgium), Mr. Weil (England), Mrs. Freedman (England), Mrs. Dreyfus (Zurich), Mr. Lewis (England), Mr. Iosif Avramov Levi (Bulgaria), Mrs. Nicole Goldmann (France), Mrs. Tehila Ofer (Israel), and Chief Rabbi Piron (Switzerland). The delegations and leaders of the F.J.C. took part in a reception given by His Excellency, the Ambassador of the State of Israel and Mrs. Zvi Brosh at their residence, and in the evening, went to the State Jewish Theatre where they watched a most successful show performed in Yiddish.

The three visits paid by delegations of European Jewry were an opportunity of mutual acquaintance and deepening fraternal relations between the Jews in East and West, all linked by the communion of belief and of ideals.

Both the delegation of the social committee of the European Council for Community Services and the delegation of Zurich Community expressed their satisfaction at what they had seen here and told us of the impressions with which they leave. In this issue we publish the statements made by Rabbi Mordehai Piron, by Mrs. Nicole Goldman, by Mrs. Tehila Ofer and by Mr. Shmuel Perl of Antwerp — Belgium.

AUDIENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTS

On 6 June, 1983, Mr. Ion Roşianu, Chairman of the Department of Cults, received His Eminence, Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen who was accompanied by representatives of the delegation of European Council of Jewish Community Services and of the delegation of Jewish Community of Switzerland.

Rabbi Mordehai Piron of Zurich and Mrs. Nicole Goldmann of Paris, director of the European Council of Jewish Communities, conveyed their homage and expressed gratitude to the Romanian government for the broad possibilities accorded to the Jews of Romania to live as Jews, from the religious, national and cultural points of view.

At the same time they stressed the humaneness with which the question of Aliyah is dealt with in Romania, for the reunion of Jewish families in Israel.

They praised the merits of His Eminence, Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen and his associates of the F.J.C. in maintaining the Jewish religious and cultural institutions, that can be envied by many large communities throughout the world. The Chairman of the Department of Cults, Mr. Ion Roşianu made an impressive and well substantiated exposition on the policy of religious freedom and civic equality pursued by the government of socialist Romania.

He emphasized the relations of perfect harmony that exist with Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen, and also highlighted the active contribution made by the leader of the Mosaic Cult and his tireless work in the service of the homeland, of the community he shepherds and of peace.

The audience passed in a cordial atmosphere.

VISIT OF EUROPEAN JEWISH DELEGATIONS

GUESTS' DECLARATIONS A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

The impressions of our delegation, of the Jews of Switzerland, after having visited Jewish communities in Romania are that we have had a special experience here.

We wish to express our feelings of gratitude, respect and deepest admiration for Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen, משה רייזנברג whose epoch-making achievements, thorough Judaic knowledge and spiritual authority arouse feelings of admiration and pride not only with the Jews in Switzerland but with those all over the world.

It is difficult if not impossible to describe the enthusiasm of the Swiss Jews for everything they saw. They just could

not believe their eyes and ears, and very often they were moved to tears.

We are now linked by close ties of friendship with the Jews of Romania and particularly with their highly esteemed Chief Rabbi. We shall never forget this visit and shall tell others too, about all these wonderful things we saw here.

Sincere thanks to all who looked after us, Mr. Emil Schechter, general secretary, eng. Theodor Blumenfeld, Chairman of the Jewish Community of Bucharest, to all the others, just as to Rabbi Marilus מרילוס for his wonderful Biblical commentary on Saturday afternoon.

Best wishes to the Jews of Romania.

RABBI M. PIRON — Zürich

BEST IMPRESSIONS

I have extraordinary impressions of what I have seen here.

We came on a mission of acquaintance with your community, and leave with the feeling of gratitude for everything you are achieving. Under the leadership of Chief Rabbi Dr. Rosen, genuine miracles are performed in all the Jewish institutions. Impressive and most uncommon are the endeavours of your Chief Rabbi of conveying Jewish identity to the new generations for whom Talmud Torah courses are organised as also wonderful choirs and orchestras. At the same time, there is great concern for maintaining dignified Jewish life in the old people's homes, which are really exemplary, in most dignified social assis-

tance, caring for the sick and old people without families, in everything that concerns our coreligionists.

I admire and appreciate greatly the understanding and humane attitude of the Romanian state, which accords also the possibility of a free and dignified Jewish life and the liberty to go Aliyah of those who wish to do so.

We are impressed also by reception we had from the Chairman of the Department of Cults, with whom we had a sincere and most interesting talk.

I wish to say again that we leave Romania with the best impressions.

NICOLE GOLDMANN — Paris

ETERNITY TO ISRAEL

Paraphrasing the motto of Hanukka „Nes gadol haia sham“ („A great miracle happened there“), we also say „A great miracle is happening here“. This is the feeling you get when you hear and see the choirs and orchestras of the Jewish community of Bucharest.

Listening to the songs and melodies of these Talmud Torah choirs, the blending of the sounds goes right to the core of your heart, while they remind you of the Jewish townlet that no longer exists and on the other hand recall the sounds of hope in the future, in „the land of my love“, the title of one of the songs. The children and youth of Talmud Torah are a live expression of „Netzach Israel lo iesaker“ („Eternity of Israel shall not dissappoint“), because they return to Judaism from far away „af al pi chen velamrot hacol“ (with all

that, and in spite of all the vicissitudes of Israel's history), with the aid of the Hebrew word.

There is no need for more than that, to convince you of the wonderful work done here, in various sections of Jewish life on the initiative and under the leadership of the Chief Rabbi of Romania, Dr. Moses Rosen.

As an Israeli, original from Romania, I have experienced here feelings that moved me to tears, because I felt that in the hearts of the singers and members of the orchestra the same flame burns that burnt in my heart many years ago, prior to having immigrated to Israel.

And this is the secret of the continuity of the Jewish people.

TEHILA OFER
„Maariv“, Israel

OUR ADMIRATION

We wish to express, Eminence, our admiration for your selfless activity in the service of our brothers in the community which you lead so that they may live a genuinely Jewish life. Your achievements in the social domain, especially as regards financial aid, food parcels, daily distribution of meals for the needy, the old people's homes as also the cultural-religious life, as for instance the upkeep of synagogues, Talmud Torah courses, educational activities for the Jewish youth in the Judaic spirit and others, impressed us deeply.

The concert given by the choir and orchestras yesterday evening, which we attended, greatly impressed us and, as Rabbi Mordehai Piron of Zurich so well said „one eye wept at the thought of the strong and flourishing Jewish community of former years in Romania, and the other one was glad for what it could see now and here, and which confirms

that „Israel lives and shall live for ever“. We also express our admiration for the „Revista Cultului Mozaic“ which comes out in four languages. It is a means of communications for all Jews in Romania and is read with great interest also by Jews in the other East European countries and in the whole world.

Thanks are due to Mr. H. Riemer, its editor, because to publish a journal in these qualitative conditions is not easy and requires special talent.

We believe that we, the Jews in the West, should express our thanks for your activity and for that of the Federation, of eng. Blumenfeld, of the general secretary Mr. E. Schechter, lawyer, for their selfless activity.

With special esteem
Rabbi SHMUEL PERL and the Antwerp
— Belgium delegation

THE JEWISH PEOPLE DO NOT FORGET THEIR BENEFACTORS

VIORICA AGARICI WRENCHED MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND JEWS FROM THE CLAWS OF DEATH

Two "death trains" left the Jassy railway station, the second day after "that Sunday" when numerous Jews were massacred in the city: one reached the Iloaei Bridge, the other Călărăși. Of the first train, in which 1974 Jews were crammed, if 776 arrived alive this was due that the distance was covered in "only" eight hours (instead of the usual half hour); of the second train, with 2,530 Jewish, if, after almost seven days of travel 1,011 managed to reach the destination alive, this was due to Viorica Agarici.

Viorica Agarici did not have the satisfaction of going to Jerusalem herself to plant — on 8 June this year — a tree on Alley of the Just (Yad Vashem); she departed from this world on 18 February 1979, at the age of 93.

Viorica Agarici was chairman of the Roman branch of the Red Cross and as such was present at the railway station giving assistance to the wounded who came by train from the front.

In the morning of 3 July 1941, when a new train arrived in the station, from which cries and moans were heard more than at any other time, Viorica Agarici immediately went on the platform to do her duty. To her amazement she was stopped, and the doors of the train were not opened, as was customary. No matter how she tried, she was categorically refused: "They are Yids of Jassy".

"The Red Cross makes no distinction between the needy!"

Defying the bayonettes which threatened her, Viorica Agarici insisted so much, warning that she will break the doors of the train, that in the end a waggon was finally opened. Then she saw — she and the station officials — hell before her (she told us later: „In a thick layer of human filth and blood, scores upon scores of people in each waggon, naked, frantic, crammed like sardines, dead, dying and alive; they had been travelling for three days in terrible heat, in freight cars hermetically closed in which carbide had been transported

previously. They reeked terribly!"). The train, that should have left immediately, was shunted on a side line; with the help of a close-by sanitary company — also on the insistence of Viorica Agarici — those in the train were taken off (just as the scores of dead bodies), washed (with hoses, as it was impossible to wash them otherwise), were given the necessary care, the waggons cleaned, food was brought and especially water of which there was no drop throughout the previous three days. The train continued its journey in the morning of the second day. That is all, simple?

But if Viorica Agarici had not stepped in with the energy of a super human being in Roman, none of the 1,011 Jews in the train would have reached destination, in the above-mentioned condition. The train required another almost four days to reach Călărăși, being shunted here and there, as the officials had not decided what to do with those Jews...

What happened in Roman, after "the death train" left? There were two kinds of reaction, when the town learned about what Viorica Agarici did:

many Jews walked passed her house, for several days on end, some put flowers on her windows, others dared to knock at her door and wish her good health, just like that, without any explanation or indication; on the street they greeted her with deep respect;

a number of hoodlums threw stones in her windows; and when Viorica Agarici under threats had to resign from the office of chairman of the Red Cross branch and take refuge in Bucharest, her house, left alone, was broken into and her furniture destroyed.

In token of gratitude, the Federation of Jewish Communities gave her for many decades a monthly social assistance until her death, as a symbolical gratitude, a well-deserved homage.

M. M.

THE MESSAGE OF HIS EMINENCE THE CHIEF RABBI DR. MOSES ROSEN

His Eminence, Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen received an invitation from the Committee of the Israeli Jews originars of Romania to take part in the planting ceremony in the ALLEY OF THE JUST in Jerusalem, of a tree in memory of the unforgettable VIORICA AGARICI who, due to her humane-ness and courage shown during the days of the pogrom in Jassy, in the summer of 1941, saved more than one thousand Jews from death.

Owing to reasons independent of his will, His Eminence did not have the possibility of attending personally, but sent the following message:

Dear Friends,

I received your letter of 22 May 1983, today. Hence, I am sorry that I cannot take part in time with my message and that of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania, in your festivity that takes place this very day to honour the memory of Viorica Agarici, one of the Hassidot Umot Haolam.

I myself looked for the deceased — in the early '50s — and after I succeeded in finding her, considered that it was our duty to express our gratitude in the form of monthly money assistance, which we gave her for 20 or more years.

I called on her several times to make her feel the warmth of the feelings nurtured by the Jews for those who helped

them when Jewish lives were ruthlessly put a stop to.

Viorica Agarici rehabilitated the human species, proving that, if there are beasts with human faces in the world, there are also noble examples which well deserve the Biblical definition of "creatures made in God's image and likeness".

The tree her son plants today in the Holy soil of Israel in her memory, shall embody a distinguished and choice daughter of the Romanian people, well-deserved not only by the Jewish people but also by the whole of mankind.

May her memory be blessed for ever!

With special esteem

CHIEF RABBI DR. MOSES ROSEN

VISIT OF A JEWISH DELEGATION OF BULGARIA

The Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania was host, between 3 and 10 June, to a delegation of the Jewish Communities of Bulgaria. The delegation included: Isif Avramov Levi, Chairman of the Religious Consistory of the Jews of Bulgaria, Matilda Sabetaeva Avramova, Haim Mordehai Meshulam (Hazan), Mazal Avramova Meshulam and Maria Avramova Aronetti.

The delegation members visited Jewish community institutions in Bucharest and in the provinces. They were greeted by His Eminence, Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen, who extended them a warm fraternal welcome.

Mr. Isif Avramov Levi, Chairman of the Religious Consistory of the Jews of Bulgaria described in his speeches, past and present aspects of Judaism in his country and enthusiastically praised the activity of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania, under the wise leadership of its spiritual shepherd, His Eminence, Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen.

The guests expressed their gratitude for the warm reception they enjoyed and conveyed to His Eminence and to the other leaders of the F.J.C. an invitation to reciprocate their visit. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

