

Editorial

A Challenge for Germany

For the past 58 years in Germany, Nov. 9 has been dedicated to commemorations of the programs that the Nazi regime launched on Nov. 9, 1938 against Jews, burning down their synagogues, stores, and other Jewish sites throughout Germany. That day is seen as the opening of the Holocaust, which reached horrifying European dimensions from early 1942 on. Because of this dark history, that specific day has a special value for post-Nazi Germany, but unfortunately also a different value for the murky underground of neo-Nazi groups, which take it as the occasion to cause maximum political damage to the modern German republic which they hate, through incidents like desecration of Jewish cemeteries, swastika graffiti, and the like. The fact that this year's Nov. 9 passed without any major incidents and acts of disturbance, is welcome. The national ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone of the new synagogue in Munich (with almost 10,000 members the second-largest Jewish community in Germany), attended by German President Johannes Rau, Bavarian State Governor Edmund Stoiber, Chairman of the Jewish Communities in Germany Paul Spiegel, among numerous other prominents, was undisturbed despite earlier hints of threat of right-wing attacks. Germany, according to the official statistics, has become the country worldwide with the largest Jewish immigration—even before Israel, and the United States.

Experts saw the concentrated police raids against right-wing and neo-Nazi groups during the past weeks as the main reason for the peaceful observance of this Nov. 9. From early September on, police had searched several hundred flats and meeting-points of right-wingers; secured numerous weapons and hate-propaganda material; and, in a spectacular move, neutralized a group of pro-terrorist neo-Nazis in Munich and other cities. The Munich group was in possession of 14 kilograms of explosives, including 1.7 kilograms of TNT—enough to blow several large buildings to pieces and kill hundreds of people. That material was seized, and 13 members of that group, which is con-

sidered a branch of the British extremist neo-Nazi group "Combat 18," await trial.

Intensified police raids, upgraded protection of Jewish sites in Germany, and other state measures to disrupt the scene of Synarchist groups—as well as the exposure of links to groups abroad—are, however, only one aspect of what can be done. The problem lies in another sphere: will non-Jewish and Jewish Germans be able to revitalize the legacy of the second half of the 18th Century, when the cooperation between Jews and non-Jews reached a high-point which created the conditions for the great era of the German Classic? Will the heritage of such great minds of philosophy and science as Moses Mendelssohn and Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, who personally laid the cornerstone for the other great minds of the Classic like Friedrich Schiller, or Heinrich Heine, be revitalized? Are there leaders among present-day Germans who can appeal to the revitalization of that philosophical and scientific richness that Germany had at the turn of the 19th Century? Are there such leaders, outside of the LaRouche Movement that has called for a revitalization of that great era of the Classics, for 30 years now?

The other big problem lies in the relationship between Germany and the Israel—both being postwar foundations. Real security and economic prosperity for the Israeli state can only be achieved in the context of general development in peace in the entire Mideast—based on mutual respect and commitment to cooperation. The same is true for the neighboring Arab states and the future state of Palestine. This is not only what many Germans think, it is also what the recently established independent Geneva Initiative group, composed of prominent politicians from the Israeli (like Yossi Beilin) and Palestinian sides, led by Yossi Beilin and Yasser Abed Rabbo, thinks. At least one of the preparatory meetings of that group for the Geneva Initiative took place in Berlin, the capital of Germany. Assisting in this kind of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians is the best positive contribution that Germany can make to establish peace in the Mideast.