

● **Opinions**

Impact of the Trial

The Eichmann trial is atlast complete, and the court will remain in recess until the judges have weighed up the harrowing evidence presented.

The recess provides the opportunity for an interim of the trial's political impact on the world at large.

There can be no doubt that the trial has met with far more favourable a reception outside Israel than the pessimists had forecast.

With few exceptions the Western Press recognised the trial as an act of historic justice, gave it ample, almost unprecedented coverage, and paid Israeli administration of justice its due.

World public opinion at the United Nations obliged the Argentine Government to give up its campaign to have Israel condemned and Eichmann returned to his adopted country of refuge.

The dignified conduct of the legal proceedings have evoked widespread admiration.

Exceptions have been few and rarely influential. Extreme anti-semites and inveterate Israel-baiters met with little response. The few Jews whose self-hate and strange moral attitudes make them the first to condemn activities by Jews in their own defence have made only a momentary ripple by their hurried dissociation from the trial.

Arab resentment of the trial for the sympathy it brought Israel has been ineffective.

Even the Communists found themselves obliged to mix faint praise with its expected vitupreation against the Jewish State.

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It is fair to say that the trial has brought home to large numbers of people in the West, Jews and Gentiles alike, some idea of the enormity of the crimes perpetrated on European Jewry by the Nazis and their accomplices.

In Israel itself the trial appears to be achieving Mr. Ben-Gurion's aim of bringing home to the younger generation the significance of Nazi persecution.

The trial's impact on Germany itself has been particularly striking and wholesale in its effects. This has been exemplified by the proceedings of the Tenth Evangelical Congress.

The Eichmann trial concerns all Germans—the Congress declared—and all Germans must face up to their responsibility. The Congress resolutions on this question were not confined to a call for soul-searching—though they regard atonement itself as spiritually beneficial—but recommended a number of practical steps, including more active education of Germans on the question of Jews, anti-semitism, and nationalism, closer relations with Jews and with the State of Israel, and a more expeditious handling of restitution claims.



Christian dialogue must be resumed. "The time for 'missions to the Jews' is over, after what has happened to the Jews in Europe and after the Christian churches have kept silent for too long, but Christian-Jewish co-operation on the basis of the prophetic teachings of the Bible must be undertaken." — Dr. Heinrich Gruber, Dean of the Evangelical Church of Berlin.



"We are the only example of a people which has become identified with a religion — the entire people, not just a select group, has grown to be a symbol." — Professor Abram

grown to be a symbol." — Professor Abram Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.



"True liberty does not exist in a Communist country and the freedom of Jews is even more limited. Soviet totalitarianism and anti-semitism are connected." — M. Couve de Murville, Foreign Minister of France.