

EICHMANN

Currents of world opinion

• By MAX NUROCK

Certain inferences, not all of them comforting, may perhaps be drawn by now from the signs of the world-wide thinking and feeling about the detection and seizure of Adolf Eichmann in Argentina by Jewish volunteers and his imminent trial in Israel.

It was to be expected that the winds of interest and emphasis should veer to many points of the compass of reaction.

This, after all, is a case that uniquely excites atavistic prejudices as much as the better instincts, a case that unhappily provokes a morbid tendency to find Israel in the wrong no less than it stirs the deeper but rarer sense of retributive right.

There are bound to be further shifts and gusts, and behind this fitfulness can be sensed that uneasy conscience in certain quarters which is anxious to anaesthetize its feeling of guilt by bringing formalistic indictments against uninvited agents of an ele-

uninvited agents of an elemental justice it had itself shelved too long.

At the start, the chorus was one of almost undiluted satisfaction that a mass-murderer, a master-criminal, had been brought to book, of eulogy of Jewry in general, and Israel in particular, on the incredible

patience and skill with which this vicarious pursuit was remorselessly followed up, while the rest of society, much but by no means all of the work of ultimate punishment standing to its past credit, was obtusely avoiding that final task.

tusely avoiding that final task. And all this with sympathetic evocation of the Jewish agony under Hitler and with endorsement of the intrinsic righteousness of dispensing Jewish justice to Eichmann in Israel.

Nor was insight lacking into the inexorable and unremitting compulsions of the Jewish volunteers who at last laid the finger of doom upon Eichmann, compulsions that might well excuse, in these custodians of a nation's grim purpose, rather less care than impersonal Scotland Yard detectives would display towards the minutiae of territorial trespass.