

In addition to this heavy programme, Sir John Lawrence will probably be going to South Africa on behalf of the Centre early in 1974 and I have been invited to go to Australia and New Zealand in late March and early April.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is the most important occasion in the period beyond that covered above. The second AGM will be on the evening of 18 January 1974 at Foxbury, Kemnal Road, Chislehurst. It will be preceded by supper at 7 p.m. The rest of the weekend (until Sunday lunch-time) will be occupied by our first residential conference in the south of England. It is possible of course, to come just for the AGM, but the conference itself will provide the fullest insight into the Centre's work and the situation in the communist countries. Booking for this is now open (maximum residential capacity is 35) and the inclusive cost will be £6 per person, payable to CSRC at the time the reservation is made. Foxbury is the spacious and delightful conference centre run by the Church Missionary Society and we are grateful to them for making it available to us.

## The International Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR

The year 1971, International Human Rights Year, saw the formation of a new organization to support the courageous stand made by some Soviet citizens in defence of human dignity and freedom in the USSR. Founded following a suggestion by the Belgian Socialist M.P. Henri Simonet, the International Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR is a non-partisan organization acting on humanitarian principles.

Its declared aim is that of informing world public opinion about the situation of Human Rights in the Soviet Union and of arousing sympathy for those who are suffering violation of those rights. Far from being negatively critical in its approach, the Committee would welcome constructive discussion with the Soviet authorities, and looks forward to a time when détente between East and West is combined with an equal respect for the rights of the individual in all parts of Europe.

Under the presidency of Nobel prizewinner M. René Cassin, the Committee's headquarters is in Brussels; its General Secretary is M. Hubert Halin. It was in Brussels that the Committee held its first major event in

December 1972 : an "International Symposium on the 50th anniversary of the USSR". The Soviet government immediately expressed its interest, sending six official representatives to hold a press conference in Brussels on the opening day to refute the Symposium in advance! Speakers at the Symposium included authorities on a wide variety of aspects of Soviet affairs, many of whose names will be familiar to readers of *Religion in Communist Lands* : recent Soviet émigrés Dmitri Panin and Yuri Glazov, Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw of Carleton University, Ottawa, and from Great Britain Prof. Leonard Schapiro and Mr. Peter Reddaway of the London School of Economics. Michael Bourdeaux spoke on the religious situation.

Since the Symposium the Committee has been active in compiling and publishing its first report, on the conditions in prison camps in the USSR. This preliminary study has been enthusiastically received in many quarters, and will be the basis for a further examination of the subject. Future reports are projected, including one on the persecution of religion.

To enable it to continue its work, the Committee invites support from sympathetic individuals and organizations who will become "Friends" of the Committee, pledging themselves to an annual subscription. For further details write to the Headquarters : 28 Place Flagey, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

## A Chronicle of Human Rights in the USSR

This new western journal resembles in format the *Chronicle of Current Events*, which was edited and circulated in typescript in Moscow, then later published in an English translation by Amnesty International in London. Over  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years the *Chronicle of Current Events* came out in 27 issues, serving as a record of almost all aspects of the struggle for greater human rights in the USSR, including that for religious freedom. In late 1972 it was suppressed, for the time being at least, by a severe police campaign of arrests, trials and searches.

The new *Chronicle of Human Rights* is compiled largely through volunteer effort in London and New York, and published in New York in separate English and Russian editions. The editors are Peter Reddaway and Edward Kline. The first issue appeared in April 1973, the second in June, and six issues a year (of about 80 pages each) will be published. The annual subscription for each edition is \$20 for institutions, \$15 for individuals, and \$10 for students and those who are not in a position to pay more. If air-mail postage is required outside the USA, then \$5 should be

added. Subscriptions should be sent, with appropriate instructions, to Khronika Press, 505, 8th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018.

The editors of the new journal believe that the traditions of objectivity and accuracy established in Moscow need to be continued. They have found that the flow of information and documents from the USSR is continuing at a high level, which ensures that there is no shortage of material. An important place in the journal is occupied by material concerning believers and the churches.

## Faith in the 2nd World

The CSRC has great pleasure in recommending to readers' attention the establishment of its sister-organization in Switzerland, *Glaube in der 2. Welt* ("Faith in the 2nd World"), directed by Rev. Eugen Voss of Küsnacht, near Zürich. Rev. Voss, who is half Russian by origin, followed a very similar path of interest in the contemporary Russian religious situation for a number of years before we met. We at once discovered a common aim and approach and since then have worked closely together. The organization *Glaube in der 2. Welt* (*G2W*), like the CSRC, has problems in acquiring adequate finance and staff, but is now on the way to securing support from a number of Swiss Church bodies. At the end of 1972 it started to publish material regularly. The materials of *G2W* are published in German and include documentation and a monthly bulletin on various aspects of religion in communist countries. Then there is a quarterly publication devoted each time to a single topic. The first quarterly issue this year was dedicated to the Solzhenitsyn controversy, and the second to the total *samizdat* phenomenon in the USSR. The publications of *G2W* and the CSRC are co-ordinated but not identical. The CSRC warmly recommends these materials to all its German-speaking readers. The address of *G2W* is : CH-8700 Küsnacht/Zh., Schiedhaldensteig 32, Switzerland.

M.A.B.