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**FIRST  
WORLD CONFERENCE  
OF  
JEWISH DEAF**

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**LONDON    ENGLAND**  
**SEPTEMBER 2nd-6th 1984**



## W.O.J.D. OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT .....A. Fleishman, U.S.A.  
VICE-PRESIDENT .....Dr. I. Spokojny, West Germany  
TREASURER .....Moshe Bamberger, Israel  
SECRETARY GENERAL.....Chaim Apter, Israel

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### ISRAEL BUREAU MEMBERS

Mr Moshe ShemTov, Mr Dan Klasko, Mr Israel Savir, Mrs Havi Maxwell

### U.S.A. BUREAU MEMBERS

Mr. A. Fleishman, Mr K. Rothschild, Mr A. Klugman, Mr G. Burstein,  
Mrs B. Oshman

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BELGIUM .....Mr Goldwirt  
FRANCE .....Mr B. Baran, Mr R. Zenou  
HOLLAND.....Mr E. Magnus  
ITALY .....Mr Donati, Mr Magri  
SWEDEN .....Mr Hurynowicz  
ENGLAND.....Mr I. Schlisselman

### DELEGATES

ENGLAND.....Mr M. Bogard, Mr J. Hart  
Mrs R. Myers, Mr E. Stryker  
FRANCE .....Mr & Mrs Chabert, Mr M. Leven

## JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

<i>Patrons:</i>	The Chief Rabbi, Sir I. Jakobovits Lady Jakobovits Sir Isaac Wolfson, Bart FRC. Hon FRCP. The Rt. Hon Lord Chalfont OBE, MC (President of the R.N.I.D.) The Hon Greville E. Janner, MA (Cantab) QC. M.P.
<i>President:</i>	George M. Gee, J.P.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mrs Evelyn Gee
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	David Lauffer, M.A., J.P.
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	David P. Assersohn
<i>Executive Secretary:</i>	Mrs Pat Goldring

### "WORLD ORGANISATION OF JEWISH DEAF" LONDON CONFERENCE

<i>Patron:</i>	George M. Gee, J.P.
<i>Sponsors</i> }	J.D.A.
<i>Host</i> }	

#### \* Organising Committee in the UK

Co-Chairman:	Martin Bogard (JDA)
	Issy Schlisselman (JDA and JDC)
Vice-Chairman:	Emil Stryker (JDA and JDC)
Organising Secretary:	Mrs Pat Goldring
Committee Secretary:	Mrs Ruth Myers (JDA and JDC)
Hon Treasurer:	Martin Binysh (JDA)
Committee:	Jack Hart (JDC)
	David Hirshman (JDA and JDC)
	Mrs Gabrielle Israel (JDC)
	David Myers (JDA and JDC)
	Mrs Jane Stryker (JDA and JDC)
	(Sports) Barry David (JDA and JDC)
Fund Raising:	Martin Binysh (JDA)
	Mrs Debra Britton (JDA)
	H. Fallman (JDA)
	G. Goldsmith (JDA)
	M. Holder (JDA)
	L. Katz (JDA)
	Miss M. Solomon (JDA)
	Myer Solomon (JDA)
	Mrs Jane Stryker (JDA and JDC)

\* With the exception of Mrs Goldring all the committee are hearing-impaired.

## HISTORY OF THE W.O.J.D.

In 1948 hundreds and thousands of homeless Jews from throughout the Diaspora made their Exodus to the new State of Israel. Some were survivors of the Holocaust. Among the six million who perished during World War II were about 6,000 Jewish deaf and hearing impaired. One of the survivors was Emil Stryker of Germany, who took refuge in England and later dedicated himself to the services of the English Jewish deaf. When the dark post-war days brightened, the Strykers visited Israel and noted that the surviving deaf Jews there appeared to have a hidden identity and unorganized apathy to their heritage. As people started travelling again, more hearing impaired people were found in countries such as Australia, Canada and Brazil. Some assimilated Jews lived in Germany, Belgium and other countries and, of course, in the Communist bloc as well.

In Mr Stryker's letters he began to suggest a World Congress of Jewish deaf in Israel, as a way of bringing all the Jewish deaf together from all over the world. The aims of the Congress were many — social opportunities, protecting the rights of the Jewish deaf, fighting assimilation, education and leadership advancements, working to upgrade the efforts of the deaf. When Chaim Apter visited the USA in 1968, he met Alexander Fleischman, then president of the national Congress of the Jewish Deaf, and they discussed the Congress, and agreed to study and work on the idea.

In 1973 Dr Drago Vukotic of Yugoslavia, President of the World Federation of the Deaf, visited Israel for the second time. We told him about the proposed World Organisation of Jewish Deaf, Dr Vukotic had no objection and pointed out that there were also international bodies of Catholic deaf, etc.

In April 1973 the International Conference on Deafness took place in Bat-Yam, Israel, and some of the participants there discussed the establishment of WOJD and decided to hold a world congress within four years. The Association of the Deaf of Israel hosted the first congress in 1977 at Tel-Aviv, it was attended by Jewish people from Europe, America and Israel, and the World Organisation of Jewish Deaf was founded.

Progress of the new Organisation was slow, a good relationship and bridge building had to be achieved. Exchange of ideas plus improving the WOJD Constitution was hard work, but the second Congress convened in Jerusalem in 1981 for an interesting program of seminars and activities. The Bureau which manages the WOJD was expanded to 15 members, six from Israel five from the USA and four from Europe. In view of the fact that the USA will host the 1985 World Games of the Deaf in Los Angeles, a resolution was adopted to hold the third Congress in Tel Aviv in 1986.

However, in order that the long gap of five years does not inactivate the WOJD, President Fleischman proposed an effort to make the WOJD "mobile" by staging a mini-conference in between. London was chosen to stage the conference, with the Jewish Deaf Association as host.

With this experience, it is hoped the conferences of this kind will become a traditional event, attracting Jewish deaf and other professional people to present their views on the educational, cultural and religious aspects of Judaism in the various countries where it convenes. By so doing, these ventures will serve the purpose and aims of the WOJD in general.

## **"A DREAM THAT CAME TRUE"**

**Speech at the Opening Ceremony in Tel-Aviv on Monday August 1st  
1977**

"It is a pleasure to say a few words especially on such important and historic occasion of the World Congress for the Jewish deaf."

Many years ago when I went to bed to sleep, a dream came over me, a dream that I wanted, a "world Congress for the deaf of the Jewish faith." In the morning I got up very excited and immediately contacted the Israelis. I was very upset and so disappointed when the Israelis said NO they said they could not do it as the time was not ripe. But I never gave up hope. I kept trying and trying and one day the GOOD NEWS came. The Israelis said YES. I felt so relieved and kept smiling.

So we have here with us the Americans, Canada, South Africa, the Europeans, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and the English. I said to them....SHALOM, SHALOM how nice to see you here.

On behalf of the Jewish Deaf Community in England I bring greetings of good wishes, congratulations and Mazel-Tov that the Congress will be a great success.

When all this is over and you go back to your country you will tell the story of Israel as well as have a very happy memory."

EMIL STRYKER

## LONDON CONFERENCE

### INTRODUCTION

It is with much pleasure that the Jewish Deaf Community of England extends a warm welcome to the delegates to this Conference. We hope you will find it interesting and enjoyable.

We feel proud that so many people have agreed to present papers and we hope you will agree that these papers touch upon all aspects of life as they affect the Jewish deaf in the Diaspora. Unfortunately, due to reasons beyond our control, it has not been possible to obtain all the information we would have like to include in this brochure. So, to all those whose biography or paper is not included here, we offer our apologies.

On behalf of the Conference Executive Committee, I would like to thank the JDA for their generous sponsorship, our Patron, Mr George Gee, JP and the Hon Officers, for their help and support. We are also deeply grateful to the RNID for all they have done to ensure that this Conference and the display which they have mounted, is successful.

I would also like to thank all Committee members and the invaluable Pat Goldring for their determination to ensure the success of this Conference — the first ever arranged by the Jewish deaf of the UK. We have been few in number but great in strength, and all have worked devotedly. I would like to thank all the committee members who, for various reasons had to withdraw, and particularly Myer Solomon, my predecessor as committee secretary. The work of our forerunners has paved the way for us and the efforts of the fund raising committee have been greatly appreciated. Thanks are also due to all those who have volunteered to help at the conference itself, those who are helping as guides, and to Mrs Marie Madden, housekeeper at the JDA who has kept the committee fortified with refreshments during meetings.

We look forward to meeting you and to your active participation in the conference, and thank you for coming.

Ruth Myers  
Committee Secretary

## Message from the Chairman of the of the Jewish Deaf Association, Mrs Evelyn Gee

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Organising Committee, who together with Mrs. Goldring have worked enthusiastically and dilligently over the past months.

They have been unsparing of their time and energy and much credit is due to them.

It is the sincere wish of my Hon. Officers and myself that their efforts will be rewarded with the success of this conference.

Evelyn Gee

## JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

**THE FORMATION** *(taken from an article written in the mid-1960's by the founder of the Jewish Deaf Association, the late Julius J. Newman)*

"In the late 1940's following a successful function to raise funds for the Jewish Blind Society, the thought went through my mind — what arrangements were available for the Jewish deaf?". (I had close contact with deaf people because my daughter is deaf). I decided to find out if there was any centre for Jewish deaf and to my surprise I very quickly learnt that, in the main, meeting centres for deaf people were run by the churches.

I approached Miss Hilda Schlesinger, MBE knowing that she had been interested in the Deaf for many years, and she explained that attempts at organising clubs for Jewish deaf prior to the 1939/45 war years had not met with success — but she was willing to help me in my efforts.

We formed a committee and various Synagogue Halls were made available for meetings for the Jewish deaf but during discussions with the deaf people themselves, I learnt that their main ambition was to have a centre of their own.

Enquiries were made for suitable premises and we found that 90/92 Cazenove Road, having previously been a hostel for refugee children was available. It had, however suffered war damage and essential repairs were necessary to make the premises habitable.

We set about raising funds in order to do this, later bought the property."

The official opening of the Jewish Deaf Association Club took place on 27th May 1951.

**THE PRESENT:** During the 33 years of the existence of the JDA many changes have come about, although some of the first members are still actively involved in the club.

The building was re-modernised in 1968 and it contains a billiards/snooker room, table tennis room, lecture hall, television lounge with a teletext T.V. set. Jewish traditions are upheld and festivals celebrated.

Accommodation is available for deaf visitors passing through London.

The activities are arranged by a democratically elected General Purposes Committee (all deaf) some of whom take part in Council Meetings.

**THE FUTURE:** Technology is racing ahead, and plans for the JDA include the introduction of a 'loop system' to benefit those able to wear a hearing aid. A major step forward will be the installation of a telephone system for the deaf.

The Jewish Deaf Association is registered with the Charity Commissioners and is financed by voluntary contributions, fund raising functions, and friends.

## JEWISH DEAF CIRCLE

The Jewish Deaf Circle was formed in 1981 (the International Year of Disabled People), with the aim of providing a social club for all Jewish hearing impaired people, in the centre of London. We meet once a month in the Youth Centre of the West London Synagogue, 33 Seymour Place, London W1 from 19.30-22.00 hours on the last Tuesday of each month.

The Circle is a small, friendly group, it is run by the deaf, for the deaf, and we welcome all ages. Programmes are varied.

We are fortunate that a Student Rabbi, Stephen Howard, has taken an interest in the deaf and learnt sign language. He has been taking a monthly Study Group at which we learn about our religion and customs, and from time to time we hope also to hold Friday night services. It should be noted that Mr Howard's activities are for the benefit of all Jewish hearing impaired people and all are welcome at these events.

## RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR JEWISH DEAF CHILDREN

In 1965 the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children closed its door for the last time, bringing to an end 100 years of full time residential and educational provision for Jewish deaf children from all over the world. This unique school started as a result of the dissatisfaction of a business man in Manchester, Mr Solomon.

In 1865 the education of deaf children in Britain was mainly provided by large residential institutions maintained by Christian charities. Mr Solomon had a deaf son and did not want to send him to such a school. Finding two other Jewish business men with similar problems, he persuaded them to join him in opening a small school for Jewish deaf children in North London in the belief that the high number of Jewish residents there would willingly support such a school.

The Asylum for Deaf and Dumb Jews opened in 1865 with a handful of pupils in a converted house, but numbers quickly grew, and more suitable premises were found in Nightingale Lane, Balham, in South West London a year or later.

Teaching deaf children in those days was mainly by *manual* methods, but the governors of the Jewish school were continually on the look out for the most up to date methods, and they heard of a new *oral* system being pioneered in Holland by a teacher of the deaf, Mr Van Praag. He was persuaded to come to London, and the Jewish school there had the honour of being one of the first schools in Britain to use the now universal 'oral' system.

With the full cooperation of the school governors, a succession of progressive and dedicated head teachers continued this policy of keeping up with the latest teaching equipment and techniques, a policy only made possible by the dedicated and willing help of the Jewish communities all over Great Britain and the rest of the world. At one time there were pupils in the school from more than 20 countries, including Africa, the USA and South America.

A full programme of religious education was a major part of the curriculum, leading up to and past the Barmitzvah for the boys and Jewish

household management for the girls. All Holy days and festivals were strictly observed, and past pupils were always welcome to return when help with religious occasions, such as marriage and childbirth, was needed.

In the 1930's the name of the school was changed to The Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children, as being more in keeping with the times, and also by this time financial help was available from local Education Authorities.

In 1939, just before the outbreak of the Second World War, the Committee, with the agreement and co-operation of the British Government, succeeded in bringing 11 children to the School, from the School for Jewish Deaf Children in Berlin. The children were all under ten years of age and the Committee accepted full responsibility for them.

As the years went by, suitable education became available to deaf children in their own areas, at home and abroad, thus giving parents the choice of having their children at home, or going away to school. Eventually there were not enough pupils for the school to continue, and it closed in 1965. The Governors decided to open a Hostel for Jewish Deaf Children in North London, and this was able to continue until 1977, so ensuring that some religious education was available for the children.

#### NOTE

For the history books, we have found out that there was an East End Social Club for the Jewish Deaf, probably from 1906 to 1917. Miss Harriet Davids was the Hon Secretary until she became principal of the school in 1917.

Former pupils of the School might be interested to know that a Testimonial was presented to Miss Davids on her retirement. The certificate was decorated by the former matron, Miss Mary Cohen, and signed by many people who were connected with the school. This Testimonial will be shown at Woburn House and the Farewell Banquet.

## OPENING CEREMONY

on

**Sunday 2 September 1984**

at

**Jewish Deaf Association**

**90, Cazenove Road, London N.16.**

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<i>Countries Represented:</i>	Belgium France Holland Israel Italy Sweden United Kingdom U.S.A.
<i>Address of Welcome:</i>	Mr. George M.Gee, J.P.
<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	Mr. Isadore Schlisselman

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***We hope that the following guests will be among those present***

<i>Sir Immanuel Jakobovits</i>	The Chief Rabbi
<i>Mr Sinai Rome</i>	The Consul General, Embassy of Israel
<i>Rev. M. Berkovitch B.A. (Ed)</i>	Director of Jewish Studies Carmel College (from November 1984)
<i>Mr Rob Baker</i>	Southampton University
<i>Cllr. S.S.Cohen</i>	President Hackney Assoc. for the Disabled
<i>Mr Jonathan Hazell, FRCS</i>	R.N.I.D.
<i>Mr Stephen Howard</i>	Student Rabbi
<i>Mr J.A.M. Martin, FRCS</i>	Nuffield Hearing and Speech Centre
<i>M.C. Martin, OBE</i>	R.N.I.D.
<i>Canon &amp; Mrs T.H. Sutcliffe</i>	

Representatives of the JDA, JDC, RNID, and other Organisations.



## LONDON CONFERENCE — September 2nd-5th 1984

(Sponsored by the Jewish Deaf Association)

### Monday 3rd September

- RELIGION:** *Session Chairman — George M Gee J.P.*  
**10.00 a.m.** **Rev M Berkovitch, BA (Ed)** — *Minister, United Synagogue.*  
"How can the deaf fulfil their Jewish Role"  
**Rabbi Hugo Gryn BA, MA** — *Senior Minister West London Synagogue.* "Communal and Religious Issues. The need to know — and to act"
- 12.30** *Lunch*
- TECHNOLOGY:** *Session Chairman — David Myers*  
**14.00** **M C Martin OBE** — *Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Head of Scientific & Technical Department.*  
"Appropriate Technology for the Deaf"  
**Rob Baker** — *Southampton University Department of Electronics.*  
"Information Technology for deaf people — research at Southampton University"

### Tuesday 4th September

- MEDICAL:** *Session Chairman — Isadore Schlisselman*  
**10.00 a.m.** **J A M Martin, FRCS** — *Director, Nuffield Hearing & Speech Centre.*  
"Where their voice is not Heard"  
**Jonathan Hazell, FRCS** — *Medical Research Fellow, RNID*  
"Noises in the Ears and Head. Our Current understanding and management of tinnitus"
- 12.30** *Lunch*
- SOCIAL:** *Session Chairman — Martin Bogard*  
**14.00** **Alexander Fleischman** — *President — W.O.J.D.*  
"The deaf person and the Jewish Community"  
**Moshe ShemTov** — *Chairman of the Association of the deaf in Israel.*  
"The Social Position of the Deaf in Israel".

### Wednesday 5th September

- 10.00** *Summing up of the conference by the WOJD President and General Secretary*
- 11.30** **Group Discussions**
- ALL SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE AT:— Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1**

Doors open at 9.30 a.m. On Monday and Tuesday we finish at 16.45, Wednesday at 12.30. All sessions include a question period and coffee/tea breaks.

## HOW CAN THE DEAF FULFIL THEIR JEWISH ROLE?

REV. M. BERKOVITCH B.A. (Ed)

1. Do the deaf have a place within Jewish practice
2. What role can the deaf play within the Jewish community.
3. What is the perception of the community towards the deaf.
4. What is the self perception of the deaf.
5. Is there a greater need for 'self projection' of the deaf?
6. Is it that the deaf at times also suffer from the 'self fulfilling Prophecy'
7. What are the resources within the community to stimulate further Jewish practice of the deaf.
8. What does the Synagogue offer to the deaf and what can the deaf offer to the Synagogue.
9. How can the self image of the deaf be more enhanced within the community.
10. The deaf have an equal place within the community and within Jewish law, how best can this be seen to be put into practice.

### Biographical note:

REV. M. BERKOVITCH B.A. (Ed.)

Minister since 1972 of the Kingston, Surbiton & District Synagogue Hon. chaplain to Surrey University and to London Airport. A member of the Chief Rabbis Cabinet with a Port folio position as Hon. Director of Welfare. Chaplain to Ashford and Ham Centres. Formerly minister of the Penylan Synagogue Cardiff 1968 — 1972 and the Central Synagogue, Birmingham 1956 — 1968. As from November 1984 he will assume the post of Director of Jewish Studies, Carmel College.

**Rabbi Hugo Gryn, BA. MA.**

*Senior Minister West London Synagogue*

"Communal and Religious issues. The need to know — and to act"

ABSTRACT NOT AVAILABLE

## **APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEAF.**

**M.C. MARTIN**

**THE ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF.**

Both deaf and hearing people look towards science and technology to provide solutions to the problems covered by deafness. A belief appears to exist that it is only high technology that will provide answers to current problems. The author will challenge this view and attempt to show that even the lowest technology can be very valuable if used in an appropriate manner.

Aids for the deaf will be reviewed that cover the use of amplification from ear trumpets to cochlear implants.

Alternative forms of aid or assistive devices will be described that cover the everyday needs of a deaf person where hearing aids are not effective.

### **Biographical note:**

**M.C. MARTIN, O.B.E. BSc.**

Head of Scientific and Technical Department of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. Is Vice Chairman of the British Society of Audiology and a member of many national and international committees covering the field of hearing and deafness.

The R.N.I.D. Scientific and Technical Department provides services that cover a very wide range of matters concerning the deaf and hard of hearing. Their experience in this area is probably unique in the United Kingdom.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEAF PEOPLE — RESEARCH AT SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY

ROB BAKER

This paper will present a brief historical review of research carried out in the Department of Electronics at Southampton University since the late seventies.

The work began with the development of special equipment to aid the deafened British Member of Parliament, Jack Ashley. The equipment, based on an electronic version of the Palantype short-hand machine, provides Mr Ashley with a visual display of parliamentary speeches while they are in progress. With this equipment Mr Ashley has been able to resume a full part in House of Commons activities.

Around the same time the British teletext services (Ceefax and ORACLE) were being launched, offering not only up-to-date news and information service, in text form, but also the possibility of optional teletext television subtitles. These subtitles would only appear on the screens of people who wanted to watch them. In this way it would be possible to add subtitles to virtually any television programme. In 1977-78 the idea of using the Palantype equipment to provide instant TV subtitles via teletext was considered. It soon became clear that although Palantype was ideal as a visual aid for deaf people attending meetings, conferences, etc, it was not adequate for broadcasting to a mass audience.

A project was set up in 1978-79 between Independent Television and Southampton University to look into the whole subject of subtitling TV for hearing impaired viewers. This was done by trying out many different subtitling methods and techniques and showing them to hearing impaired people for their reactions. Videotape examples were shown in deaf clubs and hard of hearing clubs all over the UK. The results of this work were published in a "Handbook for Television Subtitlers" in 1982.

The use of Palantype was considered once again in the context of subtitling *live* TV programmes. A number of experiments were done, measuring people's reading speeds while watching subtitled TV. We found that the average viewer was not able to cope easily with Palantype subtitles at

normal subtitling speeds. Therefore a method of providing live summary subtitles in conventional English has been developed. This method makes the maximum use of information available before a live programme begins.

Professional equipment for subtitling both live and pre-recorded programmes was built at the University during this time. The equipment is designed to reduce the amount of time taken to subtitle programmes, so that more subtitling can be done. The equipment is now in use at ITV ORACLE and has been exported to several other countries.

During the later stages of the subtitling project we paid a few visits to schools for deaf children in order to get some idea of how subtitling might bring benefits in education. Two things became apparent immediately. Firstly, that deaf children were instantly attracted to subtitled TV. It appears that they could benefit enormously, not only from being given access to the rich resources of educational television, but also from being exposed to large amounts of English language presented in a dynamic and meaningful way, i.e. through subtitles. Secondly it became clear that there was a demand from teachers of the deaf to have their *own* subtitling facilities — the ability to subtitle video recordings in the school would have many advantages. Most importantly it would enable teachers to present English language materials in a controlled manner, carefully tailored to the children's needs and abilities.

To meet this demand we are now developing subtitling equipment for use in schools for the deaf. The guiding principles in designing the equipment are that it must be cheap to buy and easy to use. We are working in close collaboration with teachers and pupils in this work.

The Southampton research team have also recently become involved in research with the deaf (keyboard) telephone. We are investigating ways of making deaf telephones and electronic mail systems more compatible with one another. The focus here is on the use of standard home computers as interpersonal communicating terminals, operating via the telephone lines. An interesting side effect of research in this area is that many schools for deaf children are now gaining access to keyboard telecommunications. Such systems could be valuable as a means of exchanging subtitles produced at one school with those produced at others, thus sharing out the

work-load in preparing educational subtitles. It is vital to keep all these new electronic media as technically compatible as possible.

#### **Biographical Note**

##### **ROB BAKER**

Rob Baker has a BA in Linguistics from Reading University and an M.Sc. in Human Communication from the School of Communication Disorders, Guys Hospital Medical School. He worked for 5 years in the Psychology Department at Stirling University on projects connected with adult literacy. Since late 1978 he has worked in the Electronics Department at Southampton University as a member of a small research team specializing in electronic communication aids. Most of his work in the last 5 years has been concentrated on the development of television subtitling techniques.

He has been a member of the Technical Aids Section of the Communication Commission of the World Federation of the Deaf, and is also active in the Simplified Spelling Society, and the Association of University Teachers. He is also a member of the committee of the Wessex Workshop with the Deaf.

## **“WHERE THEIR VOICE IS NOT HEARD”**

**J. ANTONY MARTIN**

**Director Nuffield Hearing & Speech Centre  
The Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, London WC1**

The way of the deaf child is one which bewilders us. It is not difficult to imagine and sympathise intensely with the problems of the blind for it is something we may experience in a small way ourselves when the lights fail or fog descends. But to be deaf? Not to hear, and be unaware of the incessant activity of our world, in the home and outside. Perhaps we can picture this. What is quite beyond our powers of imagination is the plight of the deaf child who because he cannot hear anything which is said to him, has no words of his own to use as and when he has need.

We need to look at the forms of hearing loss and their prevalence, the ways in which hearing loss is suspected and measured, the difficulties associated with its diagnosis, to consider the most important causes, and find out if there are other conditions which are associated with deafness and complicate it. We need to consider the effects of deafness on the early stages of vocalisation in infancy, and to assess the long-term results of educational management, particularly in relation to the child's ability to communicate.

The problems of deafness in children are wide-ranging and present challenges which continue to defy our ability to overcome them. The learning of speech and language, the nature of verbal communication and the complex social rules which govern this, the educational and sometimes and in some families crippling emotional effects present problems which demand our urgent attention.

#### **Biographical note**

**J.A.M. MARTIN MB, BS, FRCS, DLO.**

Qualified at Guy's Hospital, London: worked for four years in the medical branch of the R.A.F. in E.N.T. surgery. After three years further E.N.T. surgery in Norwich went to East Africa for nine years as E.N.T. surgeon in

Mulago Hospital, Kampala, the teaching hospital of Makerere University. There became Chairman of the Uganda Society for the Deaf, and carried out research on the early development of speech in English and African children, subsequently published in "Voice Speech and Language in the Child". Appointed Director of the Nuffield Hearing and Speech Centre, Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, London in 1967, working with children who have severe difficulty in acquiring spoken language whether deaf or normally hearing.

## **Noises in the Ears and Head. Our current understanding and management of Tinnitus**

**JONATHAN HAZELL, FRCS**

Although the writings of Aristotle have made mention of tinnitus and the fact that it can be made less noticeable, it was not until the 1970s that any meaningful treatment was developed.

Tinnitus is a Latin word meaning ringing in the ears or head in the absence of a relevant external sound. A combination of noises may occur anywhere in the head. A million people in the UK may be severely affected.

In many cases tinnitus occurs in the presence of normal or near normal hearing. The problem is often one of an over-activity of the hair cells in the cochlear. This is where the sound waves are changed into electrical activity which is carried up the nerve of hearing to the brain. In those with hearing, masking techniques have been developed which can help up to 80% of sufferers. This involves the careful fitting of a small device to the ear which suppresses the tinnitus.

Those with profound hearing losses may sometimes be helped by certain drugs, or by the techniques of electrical stimulation that are being developed to help the totally deaf — these are cochlear implants. Some of the people who have received these implants have found their tinnitus less troublesome. There is an increasing awareness that those who are born deaf may have — or may develop — tinnitus. Often it is difficult for deaf children to distinguish between this and "feedback" from hearing aids.

Many people with tinnitus manage to ignore the sounds and lead normal lives. But for some, severe depression and even suicide may result. It is essential that more priority is given to the investigation and treatment of this common and often disabling condition.

## **THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DEAF IN ISRAEL**

### **Outline of lecture by Moshe Shem-Tov, Chairman of the Association of the Deaf in Israel (ADI)**

#### **Facts and Figures**

There are some 4500 totally deaf persons — Jews and Arabs — in Israel. Most of them live in the greater Tel Aviv area. About 90% of ADI members communicate by Israeli sign language. A recent survey revealed that 70% of the members also use lip language to some extent, but only 9.2% use it freely for communication.

Most deaf are employed in crafts, industries and construction, but there are also teachers, accountants, clerks and other white collar workers. Recent technological developments in industry have brought the deaf into the computer field, to the aircraft industries and to science-based plants where high professional skills are required. Owing to insufficient study facilities for the deaf, a large amount of their potential is lost. We are convinced that if there were special courses for deaf persons in the fields of computer and science-based industries, the deaf in Israel would reach impressive achievements.

About half of all the deaf in Israel were born in Israel, the others came as immigrants. The fact that 50% were not born in Israel accounts for difficulties of adaptation and communication in the Hebrew language. 60% of the deaf are of Asian and African origin, 40% European and American.

On the whole, the employment situation is satisfactory, but when the economic situation deteriorates, the deaf are among the first groups to be affected.

#### **Needs of the Deaf in Israel**

Whatever the subject or area under consideration, the primary need of the deaf is always for translation into sign language. This is particularly difficult in Israel since we are only just beginning to train sign language interpreters and at present there are no more than ten in the whole country. Obviously the deaf person's most basic need is to obtain

translation facilities which will enable him to enjoy the services available to all citizens.

The need for social frameworks in which social needs can be satisfied.

Suitable working places. The problem of communication between the deaf and the hearing creates a sense of alienation on behalf of the hearing employers, who hesitate to employ deaf persons. It is therefore difficult to find working places for the deaf.

Information and news: owing to the inability to listen to radio and television, and to the fact that some deaf cannot read or write, it is necessary to convey information to the deaf in other ways. The deaf population avidly seeks every bit of information on services, the laws of the country, news, etc.

#### **Social services available to the deaf in Israel**

In the main branches of the ADI, there is a social worker who, on an individual basis, helps the members in personal matters and in their contacts with various institutions.

There is a rehabilitation centre for the deaf near Tel Aviv, where problems concerning vocational rehabilitation of deaf people who cannot find a job are diagnosed. It is planned for all rehabilitation centres in the country to offer similar facilities.

There is only one practising psychologist who knows sign language. His workload is naturally enormous, so one of the services most in need of development is the psychological aid to the deaf. This is up to the Ministry of Labour and Welfare which has a supervisor responsible for its work among the deaf and maintains liaison with the social workers in the schools and the ADI.

#### **Leadership**

We all know that leadership is a very important factor in the deaf community and its activities. In Israel a leadership of long standing has been active in the ADI for many years and is responsible for its activities and operations. In recent years we have been making great efforts to

promote the next generation of leaders. A leadership course trains some 30 young deaf every year.

#### **The Association of the Deaf in Israel — actions and trends**

From the large variety of activities undertaken by the ADI, I shall dwell on those related to the subject of this lecture:

- a) Following a survey conducted on the social work services, we hope to introduce a number of changes in the system and reach a point where we may resort to the assistance not only of the ADI's social workers, but also those employed by the local public service. As a first step, we must see to it that social workers learn sign language. This year we are starting a course at Tel Aviv University where social workers will be taught sign language.
- b) The ADI has clubs all over the country where members are offered a variety of *social and cultural activities*. The club committee is in charge of these and is sometimes assisted by a hearing social instructor. The quality and frequency of club activities often depends upon the leadership abilities of the local chairman and committee for nationwide events such as professional national gatherings, bazaars, and so on.
- c) The *Sport Association of Deaf in Israel (SODI)* is an independent society. It has several teams that play in leagues of hearing teams in basketball, football and volleyball. We think more members should engage in free sport activity in order to increase the number of athletes in various fields.
- d) The ADI helps the WOJD both in its important work and through financial support. The reason is that we believe that action involving Jewish background and tradition is of great importance.

Our aim is to expand the facilities available to the deaf community and improve the existing ones, but shortage of funds is a problem.

#### **Non-recognition of deaf as disabled persons**

The deaf are not recognized as disabled persons. The National Insurance Law contains a clause that recognizes hearing impairment up to 60%, but

speech handicaps are not mentioned.

At present we are fighting for recognition of the deaf as disabled, both in respect of hearing and speech, which would mean a disability degree of 100%. Today the deaf cannot benefit from their rights since they are not recognized as disabled, nor do they carry a disabled card.

#### **Summary and Future Prospects**

In Israel we are keenly aware of the deaf person's social problems. The ADI, along with other factors, are trying to come up with satisfactory answers to all these needs. While we cannot compare our situation with the level of services existing in the USA, we do take pride in the fact that some of our facilities have reached the standard common in European countries.

The road is still long, but we believe that in the next years we shall be able to achieve better services and bring about a general improvement in the social situation of the deaf in Israel.

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