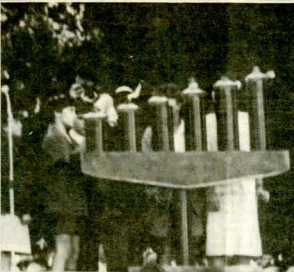


WE MUST NEVER FORGET

By Simon Hoff
 FORTY years have passed since they collapsed the Nazi empire — built on and sustained by the blood, sweat and tears of European Jewry. Mankind has not yet mastered the shock suffered by civilisation when one of the world's most highly developed nations went mad. Hitler's holocaust marked the most complete reduction of a people in recorded history — six million of our brethren.

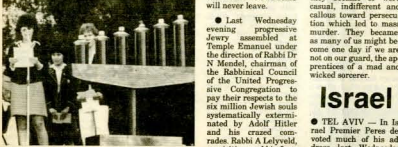
In Johannesburg, thousands of Jewish people joined together to share the anguish that is Yom Hashoah — Holocaust Day. At West Park Cemetery they gathered at the Martyrs Monument last Thursday in the intense heat, with Dr H Fabian, chairman of the Transvaal Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies presiding.



Memorial lamps were lit in memory of the six million martyrs.

Excerpts from Holocaust literature were eloquently and emotionally read by schoolchildren from the Jewish Day Schools in Hebrew, Yiddish and English. In a stirring address Mrs L. Leibowitz, a camp survivor, spoke in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. "When the inmates of the concentration camps were liberated in 1945 we anticipated a brave new world — we found freedom with joy and instead today, 40 years later, we find a new generation supporting the sign of the swastika.

"The story of the Holocaust must be engrained in history. It is difficult to relate the degradation we faced in the camps — we were deprived of everything, even our names were taken from us — we were reduced to numbers. The only thing we



Sharon Bonert, of King David High School Victory Park, reads an extract from Holocaust literature.



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retained was our inner humanity — our feelings — which we have kept to this day. We turn with love, friendship and expectation to the young people — the new generation — and exhort you to remember the atrocities, to learn the lesson of the holocaust." Mrs Leibowitz concluded with heavy emotion.

The lighting of the six Memorial Lamps and the harkarah, delivered by Cantor S Gubers were followed by an address by Professor M Katz, the national chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies who quipped: "I speak on behalf of six million accusers, whose ashes are piled up on the hills of Auschwitz and the fields of Treblinka." These are the awesome words of Gideon Hauser when

he opened the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the Final Solution — the systematic destruction of millions of Jews.

In an emotion packed address, Prof. Katz painted the picture of the horror of the Holocaust. "In this cemetery, where our own parents and loved ones are laid to rest it is indeed hard to conceive of the degradation that our brethren went through 40 years ago. We dare not forget — we have a sacred duty

to ensure that our children never forget," said Prof. Katz.

Ami Me'amin (I Believe), the Partisans Song and Hatikvah were rendered beautifully by the choir under the direction of Mr. I. Himmelstein and that concluded the services for some — but for others the moments and scars will never leave.

Last Wednesday evening, progressive Jewry assembled at Temple Emanuel under the direction of Rabbi Dr N Mendel, chairman of the Rabbinical Council of the United Progressive Congregation to pay their respects to the six million Jewish souls systematically exterminated by Adolf Hitler and his crazed comrades.

Rabbi A Lefkowitz, a visiting rabbi from America asked in his address to the congregation:

"In our own times, he said, the situation was deteriorating for South American Jewry and they should choose to settle in Israel while they can.

He said Israelis must be prepared to lower their own living standards for a long time in order to support resources for immigrant absorption.

Holocaust Day was marked from sundown Wednesday to nightfall Thursday, with restaurants and places of en-



Some of the dignitaries at the main table at West Park Cemetery are from left: Chief Rabbi B M Casper, Dr I Abramowitz, Councilor H Rudolph, Professor M Katz, Dr H Fabian and Mrs L Leibowitz.

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