

old file

DIARY OF THE PROJECT

Astor's leader on the Eichmann Trial

29/ 4/62 Astor's Address to the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial Meeting

May/July 1962 A number of people expressed their interest in the establishment of a centre of studies into political psychopathology, notably Beloff, Cohn, Elath, Legum, Andrew and Zuzanna Shonfield.

June 1962 Astor's memos on Aims and Procedures

Aug. 1962 Astor's article in Encounter

5/ 9/62 Cohn's memo on Group Images & Political Psychopathology as a Field for Scholarly Investigation.

20/ 9/62 Meeting at Waldorf - Astor, Cohn, Beloff, Legum, Zuzanna Shonfield. This led to the formation of Mr. Astor's group, consisting of:

Astor
Beloff
Cohn
Legum
Shonfield, A.
Shonfield, Z.
Wilson, A.T.M. (at a later stage)

4/10/62 Cohn's memo on Possible Approaches to the Launching of a Study of Political Psychopathology.

Nov.1962 Cohn's memo On the Investigation of Paranoid Tendencies in Social Life, together with Administrative Proposals. (drawn up preparatory to meeting of Mr. Astor's group)

1/11/62 Dr. A.T.M. Wilson joins Mr. Astor's group

Weekend Meeting of Mr. Astor's group at Sutton Courtenay. Outsider present - Mr. Eliahu Elath. An attempt was made to define objectives and choose a first subject for study - the Nazi movement being agreed upon. It was also agreed to approach the University of Sussex for academic sponsorship.

23/11/63 University of Sussex: Beloff reported having approached them and that they were likely to be warmly disposed to being associated with the project.

17/12/62 Meeting of Mr. Astor's group at the Waldorf Hotel. Legum absent. Outsiders present - E.J.B. Rose, Professor Shils and Dr. Ranyard West. The agenda was devised to provide a "dry run" of methodology as applied to a study of the Nazi movement. (Members of the group had not had time before the meeting to express comments on this form of agenda and as a result, the minutes, based on the discussion it produced, were not approved by Professor Cohn who was not prepared to use them as a basis for a memo to submit to Sussex University. As a result of this impasse, the other members of the group later agreed to waive their own views and let Astor and Cohn draw up a memo embracing their views for submission to Sussex).

- 16/ 1/63 Cohn's memo re his objections to the minutes of the meeting on 17/12/62 and giving his views on the way the project should go in future.
- 5/ 2/63 Astor/Cohn memo for the University of Sussex. This memo not only embraced the aims of the project but devised procedure whereby two ad hoc groups should be formed (a) a group of experts in the various fields to draw up the plan of research, and (b) a group of independent assessors to pronounce on the merits of the work of the experts - for the guidance of possible financial and academic sponsors.
- Feb.1963 Cohn agreed to devote himself full-time to the project whether as a member of a group or as an individual scholar.
- 11/ 2/63 Preliminary and informal meeting at Elm Tree Road - a.m. Astor, Beloff, Cohn, A.T.M.Wilson
- 11/ 2/63 Meeting of Mr. Astor's group with the University of p.m. Sussex at the Waldorf Hotel. Legum absent. Sussex represented by Vice-Chancellor Fulton and Professors Asa Briggs, J.P.Corbett and Martin Wight. Sussex agreed to be represented on both the team of experts (perhaps Corbett) and the team of assessors and expressed an interest in taking a part of the project under its wing at a later stage. Membership of the two teams discussed and amended.
- 24/ 2/63 Dr. A.Barbu (Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Glasgow) and Dr. H.V.Dicks (Tavistock Clinic) agreed to join the team of experts. This was at a lunch at the Connaught Hotel with Astor and Cohn.
- 8/3/63 University of Sussex - Astor wrote suggesting Martin Wight (historian) be their representative on the team of experts rather than J.P.Corbett (philosopher) and that the latter should attend only the initial meeting to ensure that the fundamental questions involved in the study were put.
- 2/ 4/63 Dr. John Goody (Lecturer in Social Anthropology, Cambridge) Dr. Bryan Wilson (Reader in Sociology, Oxford) both agreed to join the team of experts. This was at a dinner at the Connaught Hotel with Astor and Cohn.
- 9/ 4/63 Cohn met Dr. Elizabeth Bott (Tavistock Institute - psychoanalyst/anthropologist) to ask her to join the team of experts. Because of the pressure of her work and her young baby, she was unable to accept but volunteered to come to certain team meetings on a Sunday afternoon to have questions fired at her.
- 10/4/63 Progress Report circulated to those interested
- 23/ 4/63 Dr. Elizabeth Bott (Mrs. Spillius) agreed to join the team of experts on the basis of meetings being limited to Sunday afternoons.

19/ 5/63 1st meeting of Working Party (Cohn, Barbu, Dicks,
Goody, Spillius, B.Wilson)

7/ 7/63 2nd meeting of Working Party

28/ 7/63 3rd meeting of Working Party

22/ 9/63 4th meeting of Working Party

27/10/63 5th meeting of Working Party

8/11/63 Cohn to Germany to consult with various authorities

1/12/63 6th meeting of Working Party

4/12/63 Cohn's report on work on "Political Psychology" in
Germany

26/ 1/64 7th meeting of Working Party (with Dr.von Baeyer)

16/ 2/64 8th meeting of Working Party

11/ 3/64 Working Party Recommendations went out to Assessors

14/ 4/64 Cohn to Continent to consult with various authorities

29/ 5/64 Cohn's draft memo on return from Continent

4/ 6/64 Cohn submitted revised memo to members of
working Party

29-30/ 8/64 9th meeting of Working Party (with Poliakov)