

\$750,000 Study to Seek Causes of Mass Killings

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By Gail Bensinger

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A seven-year study of "socially or politically approved killings—what brings them about and what restrains them" will be conducted by Sussex University in England, David Astor, editor of the London Observer, announced yesterday.

"It is societies which do the big killing," Astor said. "A Eichmann is only a harmless mechanic or at worst an individual murderer—until society tells him that he may, and indeed that he ought, to kill. Then people, even quite ordinary people, seem capable of going to almost any lengths."

Astor made the American announcement of the study at the final session of the American Jewish Committee's 60th annual meeting in the State Department.

"We hope to make a contribution to the fundamental research into human nature," Astor stated. He said the study seeks to achieve "not the redemption of future Hitlers, but the strengthening of the forces of sanity in human society."

Research will be carried on in two areas simultaneously, Astor said. One will deal with "Nazi exterminations, with particular reference, in psychological terms, to how the exterminators regarded their victims."

The other study is to be "a compendium on human destructiveness," Astor said. "This is to be an attempt to bring together all that is now

known about man's propensity to kill—even to enjoy killing—his own kind when they are defenseless."

The two studies, which will cost about \$750,000, will be conducted by the newly established Center for Research in Collective Psychopathology at Sussex under the direction of Norman Cohn, a British historian and behavioral psychologist.

In another speech at the meeting, Jacob Blaustein, senior vice president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, said that West Germany will ultimately pay Israel \$10 billion for the rehabilitation of European Jews following World War II.

He noted that about \$6.5 billion has already been paid, and these indemnities have proved to be the largest single factor in Israel's balance of payments.

Sol M. Linowitz, chairman of the board of Xerox Corp., was named chairman of the executive board of the American Jewish Committee.

Re-elected president of the Committee was Morris B. Abram of New York, who is U.S. Representative to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

Philip E. Hoffman of South Orange, N.J., was re-elected chairman of its board of governors. New vice presidents chosen were Henry L. Kohu of Chicago, Marion I. Levy of Cleveland and Robert I. Wishnick of New York.