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 4½ 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.