

News from Keston College

As reported in a leaflet enclosed with the summer issue of this journal, the death after a long illness of the director's wife, Gillian Bourdeaux, saddened all who knew and worked with her. Hundreds of letters from many parts of the world, assuring Michael Bourdeaux and his family of supporting prayer, brought great comfort during Gillian's months of suffering; hundreds more letters have come since. Though it is impossible for each to be answered personally, Michael wants his deep appreciation known; he and the children will never forget the kindness and caring concern of a multitude of friends.

Two important appointments have greatly strengthened the College's staff. Miss Mavis King, MBE, is the new Information Officer. Miss King, who is fluent in Russian, German and French, has held many posts in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, serving in Vienna, Cairo, Bari, Trieste and Moscow. Her main tasks have been in research and information, and the editing of newspapers and journals. Assisted by Miss Barbara Willems from the Mennonite Central Committee of the USA and Canada, and after the installation of Telex, Miss King plans to increase systematically and steadily the output of news and information from Keston College.

Miss Milena Kalinovska left the staff to study for a higher degree in Canada after two and a half years of very distinguished service in our East European department. As her successor we welcome Mr Alexander Tomsy, who was born in Bohemia of a Polish mother and Jewish father. Forced to leave his country after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, with his studies disrupted and incomplete, Mr Tomsy settled in England, graduated in Philosophy and Theology at London University and taught in a senior boys' school with great distinction. Meanwhile, he wrote journal articles in Czech and Polish. With his fluency in these languages, as well as Russian and English, Mr Tomsy will enhance the College's coverage of East European affairs.

Miss Jane Ellis completed a successful tour of lectures and speaking engagements in the USA during the spring. In order to devote more time to pure research she resigned her post as Head of Soviet Studies and was

succeeded by Mr Michael Rowe who, in addition to Soviet research, has been dealing with Polish and German material.

Mr Alan Scarfe leaves the Romanian "desk" for a tour of duty in the USA where he will lecture for two terms and, when possible, extend Keston College contacts.

Miss Gretchen Capes of Oxford University is spending a year at Keston College as an assistant researcher before concluding her studies. Janet Payton, a graduate of Durham University, will join the East European Department in the autumn.

Michael Bourdeaux's new book *Land of Crosses* will be published shortly. It is the result of research undertaken with the aid of a Ford Foundation grant, and is a major study of the situation of Lithuanian Catholics.

During the "Defence of Orlov" in London in June one senior staff member, Mrs Alyona Kojevnikova, served as official interpreter and Mr Michael Rowe testified on Orlov's support of those persecuted for their faith.

The 1978 Annual General Meeting will be held at Keston on Saturday, 7 October. All are welcome.

June 1978

BERNARD TIDBALL

Memorial Fund

(KESTON COLLEGE)

The Director of Keston College would like to thank most warmly all those who have responded so generously to the fund in memory of Gillian Bourdeaux.