



Victor Gollancz

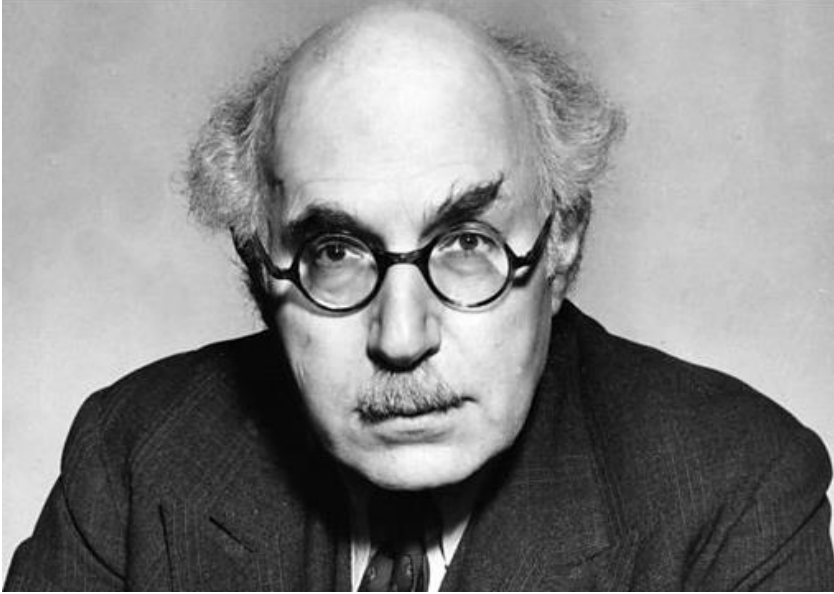
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Victor Gollancz

The Times, 1 August 1967, 9



TO THE EDITOR, *THE TIMES*

25 July 1967

From Sir Isaiah Berlin and others

Sir, – The recent death of Sir Victor Gollancz has left a great gap in our national structure. His wide-ranging contributions to the colourful mosaic of the British way of life were unique.

His vigorous campaigns impressed and inspired not only those marching with him but also convinced his opponents of his passion and sincerity. His stature and place is assured in the annals of our nation and also in many other lands. His life was spent fighting for the dispossessed and the oppressed as well as for causes of conscience. To recall his compassion for the dispossessed and the oppressed without acknowledgment of his intellectual attainments would be less than just. It is strongly felt by many that some permanent evidence should be established as witness to both these attributes.

VICTOR GOLLAN CZ

It is proposed that an annual award be established and presented to the 'Writer of the Year', of any nationality, whose contribution is considered to have made the greatest impact in the campaign against world poverty. The award would bear witness to the intellectual attainments of Victor Gollancz. It has been suggested that the award might be made by a panel drawn from the British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Oxfam, the Save the Children Fund and War on Want.

As witness to Victor's compassion for the dispossessed, it is desired to build a rural college in India. Students would attend in a setting more likely to avoid pressures which come to village youth when they attend colleges in sophisticated city centres. From such city centres they rarely return to help the villages which so desperately need them.

Many brilliant campaigns were inspired by Victor Gollancz. One of his inspirations was the creation of War on Want in 1951. With three other founders, Sir Richard Acland, Mr William Clark and Mr Harold Wilson (who gave the movement its name), his vigour and vision created what today is a great international force in the campaign against world poverty.

War on Want at 9 Madeley Road, London W5, has agreed to be the agency responsible for the organisation of the joint appeal. We desire that War On Want should establish a register of donors and thus record for the founders and ourselves a worthy company in memory of this most remarkable citizen of 'One World'.

We have, Sir, the honour to sign our names:

ISAIAH BERLIN

DAPHNE DU MAURIER

HAMISH HAMILTON

YEHUDI MENUHIN

COMPTON MACKENZIE

SYBIL THORNDIKE

DOROTHY MAYER

AUSTEN WILLIAMS

ROBERT MAYER

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