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Col. Derek Ezra, later Lord Ezra Chairman of Britain's National Coal Board, photographed in 1971 on one of his regular underground inspections at the coal face of the Lea Hall Colliery. Derek Ezra was an old friend of student days and when in 1947, I worked for British Intelligence and visited Germany in British Army uniform, Colonel Ezra was my Commanding Officer of BIOS, and I was responsible to him. Derek had liberal policies in all his many endeavours which included the precursors to the European Union. *Courtesy National Coal Board, London Press Office.*

My next professional appointment did not come from the Central Register but by 'knowing the right people'. By 1947 the aftermath of World War II had reached a stage where it had been decided, at least in England and the USA, to find out what lessons could be learnt from the War. For example, how effective had been the bombing of Germany in bringing about a rapid end of the War? To answer this question an official Government Committee had been established under the chairmanship of Colonel Derek Ezra, later Lord Ezra.

Even before the end of the War, an even weightier question was posed, namely what scientific and technical progress had been achieved in Germany since 1933, when Hitler became the Führer, and to find out what had not been published and had remained secret. It has been called 'Reparation by Technology Transfer'. In practice, small teams of British and American experts were sent to Germany to suspect places, mostly industrial factories, but also to individuals, who had worked in fields equivalent to their own knowledge. A large organisation soon grew up, in Britain the 'British Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee', BIOS, and in the USA the 'Combined Objectives Sub-Committee', CIOS. These two were Subcommittees of SHAEF, the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces under the command of General Eisenhower. They had therefore all essential priorities for their work.

Colonel Ezra was appointed in charge of BIOS and on his staff were my old friends, Geoffrey Brigstocke and the brothers Rupert and Walter Blum. When they heard that I was looking for a job, they introduced me to Ezra and he immediately engaged me as Head of the Research Section of BIOS. By 1947, the number of reports made by the returning expert teams had grown into the thousands, both BIOS and CIOS, and it became an urgent necessity to start a new series of 'Overall Reports' to review and summarise them in order to evaluate the lessons which had been learnt from Germany. These Overall Reports were my responsibility, in fact it was a very large editing and review job. It was invaluable training for my editorship of the two Journals *Discovery* and *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*.

I could not carry out this assignment alone, but had to find another set of experts, able to summarise the reports of the teams, written by those who had actually visited Germany. A total of 35 Overall Reports were written and published officially by His Majesty's Stationery Office, covering many fields. They were favourably received and often reviewed in the scientific and technical literature. Again I had a very able assistant, a Mr C., formerly of Military Intelligence. I myself was able to visit Germany again in 1946 and found Berlin an utterly devastated and depressing city.