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PREFACE

This is the twenty fourth issue of *The Socialist Register* and, like the last three volumes, it is mainly concerned with a single theme, namely problems of socialist renewal East and West. We know well enough that the notion of socialist renewal strikes many people these days, not least on the Left, as rather odd. But, as is explained in the article which introduces the volume, we do believe that, together with the problems that socialists confront everywhere, there is also the promise of renewal; and that this promise is all the more, likely to be fulfilled if the problems themselves are accurately perceived and diagnosed. This is what the volume seeks to do.

We are very grateful to our contributors for their help; to David Macey and Mike Gonzalez for their translations; and to Martin Eve for his help with the production of this issue. As usual, we must point out that neither the Editors nor the contributors necessarily agree with everything that appears in the following pages.

This year's *Register* includes a number of articles on the changes which have been occurring in the Soviet Union; and we wish to say how conscious we have been in preparing this volume of the loss that the Left sustained with the tragically premature death of Isaac Deutscher in August 1967. Much that is happening in the Soviet Union constitutes a remarkable vindication of his confidence that powerful forces for progressive change would eventually break through seemingly impenetrable barriers. Isaac Deutscher was an early writer for the *Socialist Register*, and we take this opportunity to recall with gratitude and regret how great was his contribution to the understanding of the Soviet experience.

Among our contributors, K.S. Karol writes for *Le Nouvel Observateur* in Paris and R.W. Davies is Director of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham. Patrick Flaherty has recently completed graduate studies in the United States and is doing work on the Soviet Union, and David Mandel is in the Department of Political Science at the Université du Québec à Montréal. Roland Lew is attached to the Centre d'Étude des Pays de l'Est, Brussels University. Stephen Hellman is in the Department of Political Science at York University, Toronto and George Ross is in the Department of Sociology at Brandeis University, Mass. Luke Spencer is in the Department of Adult and Continuing Education, Leeds University. Carlos Vilas is Co-ordinator

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