

**POPE MEETS CHIEF RABBI IN ROME**

ROME (WNS) -- Pope John Paul II and the Chief Rabbi of Rome, Elio Taoff, met Feb. 9, the first time in 2000 years that a chief rabbi of the city had accepted an invitation to meet the Pope.

The meeting took place in a building next to the Church of San Carlo Ai Catinari on the Piazza Cairoli, in the heart of the Jewish ghetto, the oldest in Europe. The Chief Rabbi was accompanied by Assistant Chief Rabbi Alberto Piattelli and a small delegation representing the Jewish community.

Toaff said afterwards: "This was first contact. To evaluate its impact, we will have to wait for future developments." The Pope spoke in generalities to the rabbi. He said it was good for mutual relations to emphasize the present and above all the future.

He spoke of the Holocaust, the great

sufferings of the Jews, the common religious heritage of Jews and Catholics. Toaff noted that there was common "struggle for the affirmation of the dignity of man, intended as a mirror of the Divine Image, a struggle for the right of life from its very first conception, recognizing the right to give or take it away only to God." Toaff also spoke of a common, "struggle for the affirmation of the values of the family," and "the struggle for the rights of man and his religious liberty."

The Rome Jewish Community near the area which for over 2000 years witnessed infinite pain and both ancient and recent mourning, the Jews of Rome recognize this encounter as an event of historical import and the real point of departure for a new chapter in the relations of the great monotheistic religions."

**11 YEAR OLD MAKES MAXIM DEBUT**



MAXIM DEBUT. Eleven - year - old

Cheryl Handy makes her Las Vegas debut in the Cloud Nine Lounge at the Maxim Hotel/Casino. Direct from Nashville this talented miss is destined for stardom as a singer.

She will be appearing at the Maxim through March 21 from 7 p.m. until midnight. Entertainment is continuous in the Cloud Nine from 2 p.m. until 5 a.m. with no cover or minimum.

**SHAMIR TO MEET WITH GEN. HAIG**

WASH. (WNS) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Washington later this month and Israel's concern about American arms sales to Saudi Arabia is expected to be high on the agenda. This meeting the first between a senior member of the Israeli Cabinet and a top Administration official since President Reagan took office, is also expected to give priority to creation of a multinational peacekeeping force in the Sinai after Israel completes its evacuation of the peninsula in April, 1982.

The Shamir - Haig meeting was announced by Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron after he met with Haig to express Is-

rael's concern that the U.S. might agree to Saudi Arabia's request for extra fuel tanks and bomb racks to enhance the combat capabilities of the 60 F-15 warplanes it purchased from the U.S. The additional equipment would enable the aircraft to attack targets in Israel.

Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger told a press conference that he favored the sale. "We want to do everything we can to assist them (the Saudis) in providing the additional security they need," he said. Evron, meanwhile,

told reporters he told Haig that "As long as the Saudis continue its hostility toward Israel our feeling is that it should not be given weapons which can be used against us."

**WZO ATTACKS REPORT ON ISRAEL DIASPORA**

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The World Zionist Organization Executive has sharply criticized the report on Israel - diaspora relations submitted to the recent sixth plenary assembly of the World Jewish Congress and has accused its authors of flippancy toward Zionism.

The 119 - page report was issued by the WJC's 33 - member International Economic and Social Commission chaired by Baron Guy de Rothschild of Paris. The committee comprises prominent financiers, industrialists and civic leaders representing both Israel and major Jewish communities abroad. "The Zionist Executive is confident that the World Jewish Congress will not endorse this paper and the Executive will object to any proposals to do so" the WZO statement released here said.

BONN (WNS) -- A group of neo - Nazis calling themselves the Rudolf Hess Restitution Commandos, have said they will kill two Jews at random if they do not receive \$7 million in a few days for a fund to free Hess from the Spandau Prison in West Berlin.

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