JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) - Mordechai Oren, the veteran Mapam activist and jouranalist whose trial and imprisonment by Czechoslovakia in the 1950s shook and split the leftwing of the Zionist movement, died at the age of 79. A founder of the Hashomer Hatzair in his native Austro-Hungary, where he was born in 1905, Orem came to Palestine in 1929 and became a member of Kibbutz Mizra, his home until his death.

BONN (WNS) - Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that he will inquire into the whereabouts of Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz death camp doctor, during the upcoming visit here of President Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay. He said he would ask what has been done to locate and arrest the Nazi war criminal who is widely believed to be living in Paraguay.

TORONTO (WNS) - Ernst Zundel, a 46-yearold West German citizen who has lived in Canada for more than 25 years, was convicted February 28 of publishing false news by declaring in a pamphlet that accounts of the Nazi crimes against Jews are fabricated. Judge Hugh Locke set March 25 for sentencing and freed Zundel on a \$1,000 bail. He faces a maximum of one year in prison.

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MONTREAL (WNS) - Several hundred persons participated recently in an interfaith prayer vigil at the Christ Church Cathedral here marking the eighth anniversary of the imprisonment of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky. The event was sponsored by the Interfaith Task Force for Soviet Jewry. The service was followed by a vigil outside the Soviet Consulate by the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

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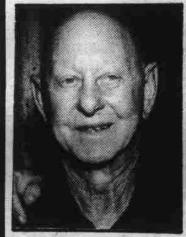
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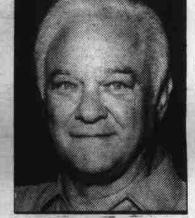
NEW YORK (WNS) - "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews," the TV special narrated by Abba Eban and shown here on public television, was given the 1985 Christopher Award. The series. which won critical acclaim, was produced by Marc Siegel and Arnold Labaton, The Christophers is a non-profit ecumenical organization and its awards are given each year for artistic excellence in films, books and television specials affirming the highest values of the human spirit.

TEL AVIV (WNS) - Premier Shimon Peres announced in Eilat March 4 that Israel's southernmost port town would become a free trade zone within the next two months. When the arrangements come into force in April, value added tax and employers tax will be cancelled. Income tax and company taxes will be reduced, cheap fuel will be available to aircraft landing there, and special incentives will be available for entrepreneurs.

TEL AVIV (WNS) - Some 150 newspapers. magazines and radio and TV networks from 25 countries are represented in Israel by 217 journalists, according to the 1985 edition of the Who is Who of the Foreign Press Association in Israel published here last week. The largest group of media outlets represents West Germany, with 45 papers and broadcasting networks, followed by the U.S. with 43, France with 25, Holland with 23, and Great Britain with 17.

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