Herzog Visits Bergen-Belsen And **Dedicates Symbol To Memory Of Those Who Perished** In The Holocaust

 Presidsent Chaim Herzog of Israel, reciting the words of the psalmist, "My pain is with me forever," unveiled a rock quarried in Jerusalem at the site of this former concentracamp dedicated it to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust.

"I do not bring forgiveness with me, nor forgetfulness," declared Herzog, the first President of Israel to

BERGEN-BELSEN (JTA) visit Germany. "The only ones who can forgive are the dead. The living have no right to forget. Thus I will surely remember, with a heavy heart."

The brief, moving ceremony at Bergen-Belsen followed by a few hours Herzog's arrival at Bonn where he was greeted with a 21-gun salute and personally welcomed by President Richard von Weizsaecker of the Federal Republic.

Several hundred

headed by von Weizsaecker and the Prime Saxony, Ernst Albrecht. Many fought back tears as the El Mole Rachamin, the prayer for the dead, was chanted by a

the audience. "In this place, the vale of slaughter, and at the outset of my journey on this soil, I leave as a and sisters, victims of the Shoah (Holocaust), a stone hewn from the it are carved the words

people assembled here, of the psalmist, as including Holocaust testimony to the survivors and West decimation of my German dignitaries, people: 'My pain is with me forever'."

He recalled, "I was Minister of Lower here for the first time 42 at Bergen-Belsen was a years ago. Then I was a Jewish soldier from the land of Isarel, participating in destruction of the Nazi regime, plucking the Then Herzog faced brands snatched from the fire. The memory of those shocking sights me.

memorial, my brethren by some survivors, I return as President of the State of Israel, the independent Jewish rocks of Jerusalem. On State, by decision of its sovereign government, to bear witness before you that the ultimate destiny of the Jewish people will never be betrayed and that the Jewish people lives on."

> At the ceremony, a Holocaust survivor, by Hadassah Rosensaft, Bergen-Belsen. Before recognized Herzog as unveiling the memorial

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the British army which liberated the concentration camp. She burst into tears and embraced the President.

The memorial service far cry both in mood and setting from the ceremonial pomp that greeted Herzog and his wife Aura when they stepped from their Israel Air Force jet at Bonn airport.

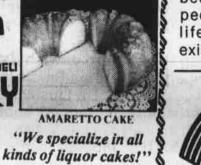
After reviewing a will never, ever leave guard of honor, Herzog was flown by helicopter "Now, accompanied to Villa Hammerschmidt, the official residence of President von Weizsaecker. There, German army units passed in review and the national anthems of Israel and West Germany were played. The Presidents had a brief talk and were then flown to Hannover. capital of Lower Saxony, and from there helicopter one of the officers of stone, Herzog visited

the museum at the concentration camp site and inspected the sole remaining barrack.

Herzog's five-day tour of West Germany. following a five-day visit to Switzerland. was controversial in Israel where some thought no President of Israel should set foot on German soil. Von Weizsaecker went out of his way to thank Herzog for accepting Bonn's invitation. "Of course I understand those who voiced criticism," he told reporters three days before Herzog's arrival. He said the visit by the Israeli chief of state was "an extraordinary event of an extremely important meaning."

Von Weizsaecker denied that the visit intended "close" the chapter of the German past. "In history there can be no such closure," he said.

Herzog's words at Bergen-Belsen bore that out, for he addressed himself to those "You long dead. bequeathed to our people the precept of life, the imperative of existence," he said.





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