

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

BONN (JTA) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in his strongest public statement on the Nazi era, called the crime of genocide against the Jews a crime "unprecedented in history," declaring "we should keep alive the memory of the full extent of that terrible past" and "will oppose any attempts to dismiss them from our thoughts or belittle them."

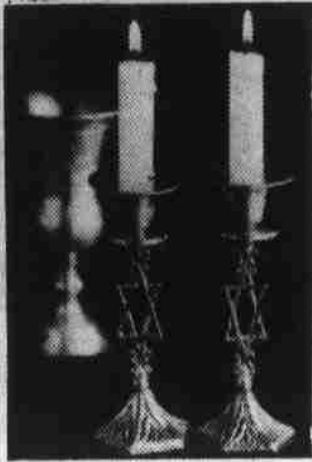
The Chancellor's remarks, at a luncheon recently, in honor of the visiting President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, was seen as a warning against attempts by some West German scholars to equate the Nazi extermination of Jews with other crimes in modern history and by neo-Nazis to rewrite history by claiming the Holocaust never occurred.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — East European publishers, participating for the first time, attracted the most attention at the 13th International Book Fair here last week. They are among more than 1,000 publishers from 40 countries displaying over 100,000 books on all subjects. Crowds gravitated to the Polish stand where 300 books on display included many works of Judaica. Some dealt with the destruction of Polish Jewry in the Holocaust. Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia are also well represented at the book fair.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Diamond Institute has reported that Israel's exports of polished diamonds rose 26 percent during the first three months of 1987 compared to the same period last year. Value was up to \$510 million from \$406 million. Diamond dealers forecast a record year with sales of \$2 billion compared to \$1.7 billion in 1986.

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 Friday, May 8..... 7:16 P.M.
 Friday, May 15..... 7:21 P.M.
 Friday, May 22..... 7:27 P.M.



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JERUSALEM (JTA) — This ancient city will take on a new glow of excitement this year with an international celebration of the 20th anniversary of the city's reunification. From April through June there will be solemn ceremony, song and dance, sports and festivals, to mark Jerusalem as a city of peace, with spectators, participants and performers drawn from all over the world.

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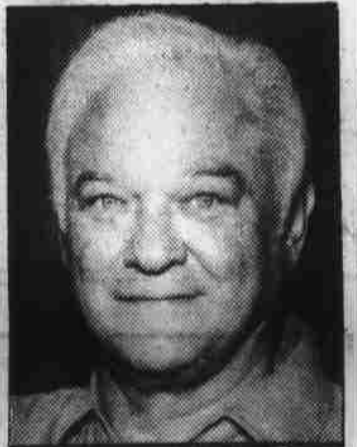
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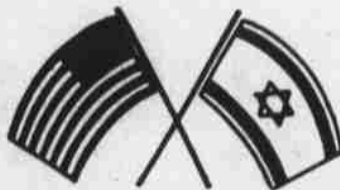
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ROME (JTA) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had a 90-minute private meeting with two senior Soviet officials recently. An aide to Peres, Israel Gat, said the meeting was "very important" but declined to give details, saying it was premature to talk about results or progress.

The Soviet officials are Karel Bruten and Alexander Zutov, both close aides to Anatoly Dobrynin in the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's international affairs department. Bruten has been described as the Soviet Politburo's top expert on the Middle East.

NEW YORK — Almost two thousand Jewish educators are expected to attend the twelfth annual Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, to be held August 23-27 at West Georgia College, Carrollton, Ga., seventy miles from Atlanta.

Detailed information on the 1987 CAJE Conference may be obtained from CAJE, 468 Park Avenue South, Room 904, New York, N.Y. 10016. Phone 212-696-0740.

NEWPORT, R.I. (JTA) — Members of the Jewish community here and the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue have created the National Heritage Trust to endow and maintain the American Jewish Heritage Center adjacent to the historic synagogue here. The Touro Synagogue, the oldest in the United States, was built in 1764.