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Jews — in 1965 they sang their allegiance to the Jewish people before the Kremlin."

Wiesel is proud of the Dec. 6 rally in Washington, but gently admonishes that massive support for Soviet Jewry should have been available years earlier. "I came here, to this same synagogue, ten years ago and begged for your help with Soviet Jewry. What changed? Your children brought you" to Washington.

"Now we are all here, together. There is only one destiny for the Jew and that is a Jewish identity," he says, and "a Jew not ready to help another Jew can not be ready to help anyone else."

Turning to the subject of the Holocaust, Wiesel is skeptical of America's ability to prevent a Holocaust from happening here. He points to the 20-year campaign of revisionists "denigrating our martyrs, our victims"; the question being asked in America why the Jews did not fight back against the Nazis; the rise of anti-Semitism in Japan.

Many of the factors that produced anti-Semitism in Europe are now present in America: corruption in government, Jews involved in anti-national activity (Jonathan Pollard), crooked financiers (Ivan Boesky). "In Europe this would have caused a wave of anti-Semitism."

In response, Wiesel demands a closer-knit Jewish community. "If there was no Holocaust, where are our parents, our brothers, our sisters, our children? How can they ask such questions while we (the survivors) are still here? To be a loyal Jew does not only mean being loyal to the living, but loyalty to the dead as well.

"A Jew is part of a huge community — it begins with Abraham and ends with the Messiah. Of all the people of antiquity, only the Jewish people survived. How?" he asks. "Not only did we survive, we drive the rest of the world crazy."

Jewish survival is based on this sense of community, on a sense of loyalty to the Jewish community.

"Gorbachev came to Washington for a nice time and there were 200,000 Jews there ... It was just beautiful."

Wiesel calls for a sensitive Jewish community through "study of our past, to be more fervent in our present," while looking to our future. He says the opposite of beauty, love, faith, peace and life is indifference, and Jews must forever guard against indifference.

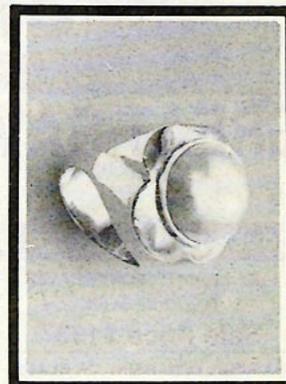
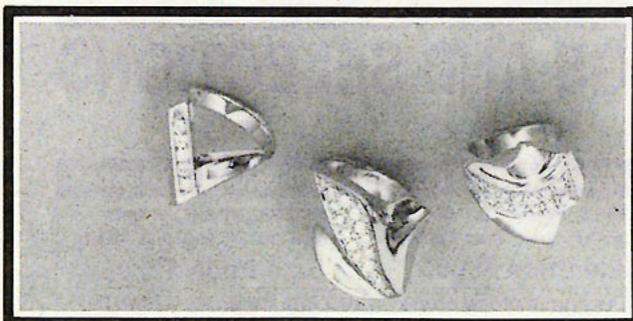
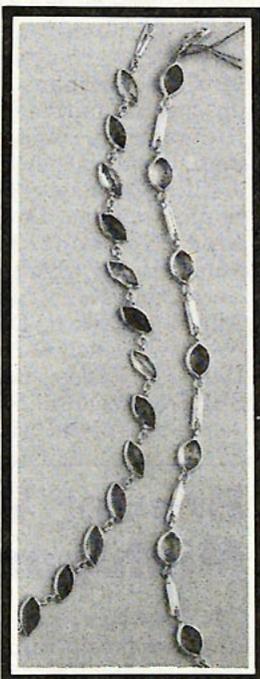
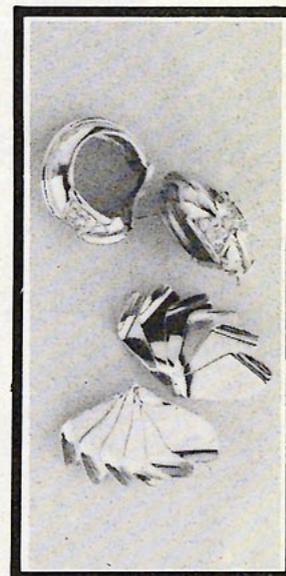
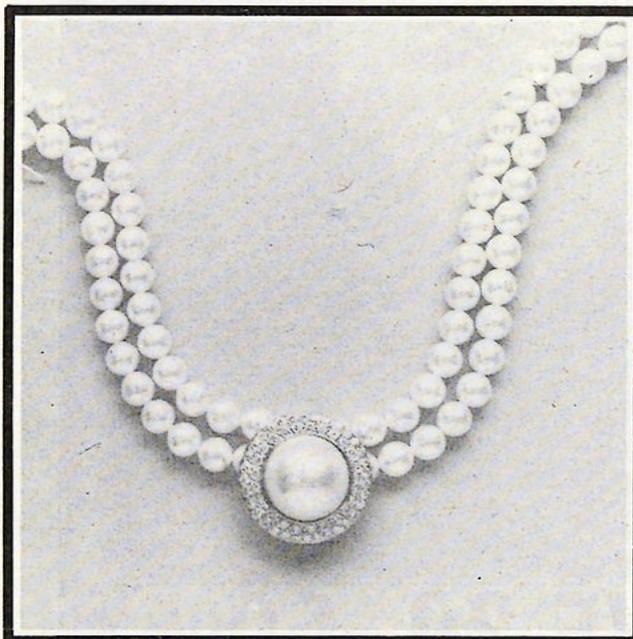
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