

France	340.00	1st Year	1,800.00
Germany	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Italy	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Japan	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
USA	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Canada	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
UK	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Spain	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Sweden	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Denmark	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Norway	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Finland	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
Australia	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
New Zealand	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
South Africa	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
India	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
China	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00
USSR	225.00	1st Year	1,350.00

## Koreas Are Close To Talks

### Seoul Proposal Is Accepted to Discuss Terms

By Susan Chira  
*New York Times Service*  
**TOKYO**—North Korea agreed Monday to a South Korean proposal for the highest-level political and military talks since the Korean War.

Prime Minister Yon Hyung Mok of North Korea said that delegates from each side met on Feb. 8 at the truce village of Panmunjom to discuss terms for a meeting between Mr. Yon and Prime Minister Kang Young Hoon of South Korea.

Mr. Yon made the proposal in a letter to Mr. Kang, according to South Korean news reports.

"The North and the South should remove the state of tension which is driving the same people toward disaster," Mr. Yon wrote.

He said the two Koreas should "prepare a firm foundation for peaceful unification."

Both sides have proposed such meetings in the past, most recently South Korea in December.

But North Korea appeared Monday to accept South Korea's latest proposal for high-level talks without the explicit preconditions it has made before, such as abolishing the annual U.S.-South Korean joint military exercises.

Instead, Mr. Yon's letter said that to create a "good atmosphere for the talks," he expected a "proper effort" by Seoul not to hold the exercises this year.

The newspapers are set to begin late next month and to continue until mid-April.

U.S.-South Korean military exercises have been conducted since 1976.

Mr. Yon also renewed a call for three-day talks between North and

## Bonn's Libya Crisis: Complex Anxieties

By Serge Schmemmann  
*New York Times Service*  
**BONN**—In the two weeks since West German companies were accused of helping to outfit a suspect chemical plant in Libya, West German officials have gone from a petulant defensiveness to the surprising admission that they knew all about it long before the Americans told them of their concerns.

In so doing, Bonn displayed the complex anxieties of a nation whose economic and military power has outstripped the revival of its self-confidence.

It also disclosed a new, spreading sense of annoyance with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, an

ally he evidently felt that he had done all he could after President Ronald Reagan had told him of the U.S. suspicions about the Libyan plant at a meeting on Nov. 15.

The chancellor had started clandestine investigations and finally initiated steps to revise West Germany's lax export laws and regulations, which the Americans had sought for many years.

In ordering the new export controls, Mr. Kohl thought he was tacitly accepting the long-standing U.S. charges, at the cost of opening himself up to a barrage of political accusations from the opposition on West Germany's secret sales of nuclear equipment and arms.

Mr. Kohl also stood to take on the power-export lobby, which was irritated by previous U.S. efforts to curtail German high-technology exports to Eastern Europe.

The leaks, moreover, forced the government to disclose its clandestine investigation and to order a public inquiry by finance authorities immediately, knowing that it would turn up nothing.

The repeated insistence by Mr. Kohl's spokesman that the Americans had not provided "evidence that stood up in court" reflected in part the memory that the last time Bonn had acted on U.S. information, in 1984 against Karl Kolb Co., which Washington said was involved in building a gas plant in Iraq, the company sued the government and won.

Beyond the political problems was the emotional effect that the charge of producing poison gases had on a nation that pioneered their use in World War I and which the Nazis extended to genocidal practice in the 1940s.

The invocation of Auschwitz in a New York Times column — one widely quoted and commented on — jabbed straight to the Germans' greatest angst, adding an emotional tinge to an already sensitive affair.

In the column on Jan. 1, William Safire wrote, "One might think that this generation of Germans, aware



## Martin Luther King Jr. Is Remembered

Edward J. Perkins, the U.S. ambassador to South Africa, unveiling a bust Monday of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. at the embassy in Pretoria. In Washington, President-elect George Bush praised Mr. King on the holiday marking the civil rights leader's birthday. Page 6.

## Soviet Harvest Falls Short After Dry '88 Season

By Craig R. Whitney  
*New York Times Service*  
**MOSCOW**—A Soviet official said Monday that the country's grain harvest last year had fallen 40 million metric tons short of the planned target of 233 million tons, according to preliminary estimates.

A U.S. Embassy official said that dry weather in the Soviet Union had affected the harvest just as it had in the United States and Canada last summer and that the Soviets were likely to make up the shortfall by buying grain, mainly for livestock, on Western markets.

Siepan Staryan, the first deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee, estimated the harvest at 193 million tons in answer to a question at a news conference in September, the U.S. Agriculture Department had estimated that the total would be closer to 205 million tons, and more recently it had downgraded that to 200 million.

The U.S. interest in the harvest stems from the effect of Soviet grain purchases on the price of wheat and corn on international markets. When the Soviet Union first stepped in unexpectedly and began buying in a big way in the early 1970s, the effect was to sow chaos in the U.S. domestic market.

The U.S. government tried to restore order by bilateral agreements to make purchases more predictable.

After the Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan at the end of 1979, President Jimmy Carter embargoed U.S. grain exports, and since then Moscow has diversified its purchases, buying from Argentina, Canada and Australia.

Last November, the Soviet Union committed itself to buying no less than 9 million tons of American grain a year over the next two years and to consulting with the Agriculture Department if it needed

its Central Committee secretary responsible for agriculture. The year after that, the harvest fell to 177 million tons, and 1981 was a disastrous 158 million tons. Mr. Gorbachev's last year in charge of agriculture, 1983, was his best, but the harvest was still only 192 million tons.

Since he became the country's leader in 1985, Soviet imports of grain from abroad have run close to 30 million tons a year. In 1984, the harvest was only 173 million tons, and the country had to buy more than 55 million tons abroad.

In 1987, the total was 211 million tons.

This year the Soviet Union has forecast that it would import 35 million tons, but some European grain traders quoted by Reuters said they thought it might actually buy closer to 40 million tons from abroad.

The shortfall in grain is one reason for the difficulty the Soviet government has in supplying the population with food, but only one. Soviet agriculture still feels the lingering effects of Stalin's forced collectivization of the farms and the deaths of millions of peasants in the 1930s.

Recently, Mr. Gorbachev has sought to encourage more efficient production of food, mainly by encouraging the private sector to take a bigger stake in the farm economy, but nothing much has changed out in the fields.

Last September, he put his conservative rival in the Politburo, Yegor K. Ligachev, in charge of the agricultural sector. In March, the Central Committee is to meet to see what else can be done to improve the situation.

### Lease Protection

Mr. Gorbachev has urged that immediate steps be taken to protect