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The friendly nature of the competition among the world's diamond bourses was very much in evidence at the recent festivities celebrating the 75th anniversary of Antwerp's Beurs voor Diamanhandel, as scores of well-wishers turned out for the jubilee bearing sincere congratulations and high hopes for the future.

Others came bearing concrete tokens of their good wishes for the Antwerp Exchange; among these was World Federation of Diamond Bourses President Moshe Schnitzer, who presented this impressive sculpture of Moses and the Ten Commandments to the Bourse. The statue, created by prominent Israeli artist M. Sternschuss, officially a gift from the Israel Diamond Exchange and its President to the venerable Belgian institution, by extension also symbolises the wishes of the world's diamond bourses.

That such a sculpture of Moses, symbol of strength and longevity of the Jewish people, was chosen for the occasion is also significant, for the strength and longevity of the Antwerp Bourse has been a beacon to the international diamond business. From humble beginnings, the Bourse rose to tremendous heights, persevering through times of war and financial difficulty to achieve its place of prominence today.

The splendid festivities held to honour the Bourse were an encouraging sign to the entire world diamond industry, coming as they did when business is not rosy. The spirit of cooperation, unity, and optimism that pervaded the jubilee will long leave its impact on the participants – and on those in their home bases to whom they returned, bearing a feeling of hope in the future, a sense of an upturn in business on the horizon.

In turn, the world-wide publicity afforded the event by the media further strengthened that confidence in diamonds internationally. The historic event, consequently, was not merely a huge birthday party for the Beurs – although that it was, too, and a festive one, at that. It was a chance for diamond leaders from all parts of the globe to gather together, reinforcing their own feelings of confidence and, by their very presence and strength of numbers, underscoring their expectations for an era of expansion and prosperity for the diamond business.

