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ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES BILL IN KNESSET FOR ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

TEL AVIV, July 12. (JTA) -- A bill providing for the abolition of death sentences in Israel, except on grounds of treason when the country is in a war emergency state, was introduced today by the government in the Knesset. The bill stipulates that the maximum penalty should be life imprisonment.

The Ministry of Justice presented to the Knesset the draft of a law under which the existing War Emergency Regulations should be enforced automatically whenever emergency conditions threatening the safety of the state arise.

The draft of the projected law provides chiefly for the introduction of restrictions on individual freedom, imposition of censorship and authorization for officers to carry out administrative arrests. Members of parties opposing the government spoke in the Knesset against the proposed legislation.

The Ministry of Education today presented a bill to the Knesset providing for compulsory free education for children between six and 13 years of age. Severe measures were recommended against parents violating provisions of the bill.

The Ministry of Finance introduced a bill which recommends government financial aid to citrus growers. Some form of loans will be granted on the basis of two percent interest while other types will carry a charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

ISRAELI PREMIER OUTLINES FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR ABSORPTION OF 750,000 IMMIGRANTS

PETACH TIKVAH, July 12. (JTA) -- A government four-year plan envisaging the arrival of 750,000 immigrants, with at least 100,000 of them settling on the land, was announced by Premier David Ben Gurion at the seventh congress of the Histadrut Agricultural Workers Union which opened here last night.

"Five hundred new settlements will be established for the new immigrants on 3,000,000 dunams of land," Mr. Ben Gurion said. "With planned, intensified agriculture designed to meet the Yishuv's requirements, as well as provide a margin for export, the government will extend all necessary help to Israel's farmers," he said.

Addressing more than 300 delegates representing the Mapei, Mapam, General Zionists, Hapoel Hamizrachi and Communist parties, the Israeli Premier reviewed the accomplishments of the first four months of the elected government. He revealed that the land area of Israel increased "peacefully by several million dunams." Asserting that construction costs were lowered during the period, Mr. Ben Gurion stated that 250,000 housing units are currently being erected, while the new state's industrial development was enhanced through private capital investment from both Jewish and non-Jewish sources overseas.

Touching on the high cost of living, the Israeli Premier cited the successful struggle being waged to resolve this problem. He also pointed up improved communications in the Jewish state, and predicted that the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem railway would soon be reopened. Foundations were also laid for a system of compulsory free education for both Jewish and Arab children in Israel, he added.

"The government plans to build the largest possible Yishuv with a very high standard of living, to attract equally Jews from rich and poor countries," Mr. Ben Gurion declared. "The country's first defense line will be based not on military forces, but on the border settlements," he emphasized. Mr. Ben Gurion also reviewed

plans for development of the Negev as an agricultural area, with the southern region--fronting on the Gulf of Aqaba--becoming a center for fishing and shipping activity.

Mr. Ben Gurion also revealed that the government will soon submit to the Knesset a proposal to give agricultural training to Israeli youths which, up to a given age, would be credited as part of their military service.

Israel Will Have 2,000,000 Population Within Four Years, Expert Predicts

Gen. L. Gvati-Halperin, director-general of the Ministry of Agriculture, told the convention that Israel's population in the next four years will reach 2,000,000 and that on this basis 200,000 persons, or roughly 60,000 families, will be required to engage in agricultural pursuits.

Thirty-five thousand families will be settled in 350 settlements in northern Israel while 10,000 family units will make their homes in 150 colonies in the northern Negev, he said. Approximately 5,000 families will take up residence in areas adjacent to large, established settlements while the remaining 10,000 family groups will be assigned to farms throughout the country.

The government's plan for the erection of 350 new settlements in the northern sector of the Jewish state provides for productivization of "conquered, good, arable land that does not require capital investment," Gen. Gvati stated. On the other hand, plans for the northern Negev settlement necessitate establishment of an irrigation system to supply 100,000,000 cubic meters of water annually for some 100,000 dunams of land. He estimated the cost of realizing the government's four-year agricultural program at approximately \$276,000,000.

Abraham Harsfeld, Israel's leading colonization and agricultural expert, told the delegates that 347 agricultural settlements are "now flourishing in Israel" while 18 youth agricultural institutions, attended by 3,000 students, are also in existence. He estimated the Jewish state's present agricultural population at 73,000. Since the proclamation of Israeli statehood, 107 colonies were founded, with 20 of these set up in the Negev, he reported.

BRICKS OF ROMAN ERA UNEARTHED AT EXCAVATIONS FOR ZIONIST CONGRESS BUILDING

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- Excavation for the foundations of the \$1,800,000 Zionist Congress building in the northern part of Jerusalem was interrupted today when workmen uncovered bricks of the Roman era bearing the coat of arms of the Roman Tenth Legion which captured Jerusalem. Work will be suspended for a month while archaeological teams dig on the site of the find.

The find was said today to show that the Tenth Legion, which was stationed on Mt. Scopus preceding the capture of the city and the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E., also occupied the northern approaches. The attack on the city was carried out from Mt. Scopus. The bricks were said to show that the Legionnaires who besieged the city had buildings of brick as well as tents. The Zionist Congress building was authorized at the last meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee and will house future Zionist Congresses.

GROUP OF 415 JEWS SAIL FROM UNITED STATES FOR ISRAEL ABOARD TURKISH VESSEL

NEW YORK, July 12. (JTA) -- A group of 415 Jews sailed from here last night for Israel aboard the Turkish vessel Ordu. The passengers are expected to arrive in Israel within a fortnight.