

J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, INC. 231 West 58th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

VOL. XX No. 141 - 35th year

Thursday, July 23, 1953

SERVICE BILL FOR WOMEN INTRODUCED IN KNESSET; PASSAGE EXPECTED

JERUSALEM, July 22. (JTA) -- The controversial National Service Bill which provides for two years of non-military service for women in Israel exempt from military service because of religious convictions, was introduced in Parliament today, while religious elements in the city held a large demonstration in protest against the bill.

The city's main street was jammed by demonstrators and onlookers, who seemed to outnumber the participants. Marchers came out of the narrow crooked streets of the religious quarter and converged on the center of the city. A short distance from Parliament the marchers halted and participated in a ceremony at which special prayers were recited and shofars were blown. Then the demonstrators dispersed peacefully.

The block surrounding Parliament, an area in which demonstrators may not legally enter, was guarded by hundreds of steel helmeted policemen armed with rubber clubs. No unauthorized persons were allowed to enter the block. One of the interesting features of the protest rally was a special prayer service in the Great Synagogue in the Zikhron Jacob quarter in which religious persons of all ages sat cross-legged and repeated the prayers which were first broadcast over a loudspeaker.

Orthodox Laborites to Vote for the Bill

The Knesset Rules Committee allotted three hours to the debate on the national service measure and it is expected that the bill will pass its first reading tonight. Early this morning, Agudah leader Rabbi I. M. Lewin made a final, unsuccessful attempt to get Acting Premier Moshe Sharett to delay introduction of the measure.

The central committees of the Mizrachi and Poale Mizrachi parties met today to decide what stand to take in the Knesset. It is known that Lamifneh, one faction within the Labor Mizrachi, will vote with the government. Moshe Shapiro, Poale Mizrachi leader, said "the entire party is united on this question."

Mrs. Golda Myerson, Minister of Labor, who presented the bill, said that it was the intent of the government to increase the available labor power by drafting Orthodox young women who were unable to serve in the Army for religious or family reasons for other jobs. She said they would be able to do their duty to the state by serving either in religious institutions or schools or in religious settlements or in immigrant villages.

"These girls will not be taken from their homes. They will work all day at their allotted jobs, returning at night to their homes," she declared.

ISRAEL SERVICE BILL SAFEGUARDS RELIGIOUS ENVIRONMENT FOR GIRLS

JERUSALEM, July 22. (JTA) -- The National Service Bill, which aroused the protest of ultra-Orthodox elements in Israel even prior to its introduction in Parliament, provides ample safeguards for a religious environment and way of life for the girls in the national service, it was pointed out here today. It also provides for the exemption from all forms of national service of those Orthodox girls whose family background and way of life does not permit them to leave the home environment even for a day's work.

The bill stipulates that girls from the age of 18 to 26, unmarried, who are exempt from regular military conscription on religious grounds, be drafted into national service for a 24 month period, the length of the regular military conscription for women. The health standard for the national service conscription will be the same as for military service.

The national service under this bill will include work in religious agricultural settlements, immigrant camps, transitory immigrant settlements, educational, medical and social welfare institutions. Special inspectors in the manpower department of the Ministry of Labor will decide the type of work and place of employment of each girl.

Every effort will be made to station the girls as near home as possible, thereby permitting them to sleep at home after their day's work, it was stated. The bill also assures a religious way of life for those who will be employed in religious settlements as well as for those outside them.

Special exemption committees will be set up to examine applications for complete exemption from national service on family, educational or economic grounds, or because of a particular Orthodox way of life of the applicant under review. Women exempted from military service before the national service law comes into force will not be affected by the new act.

Pro-government circles pointed out today that for some time there has been vigorous objection to the complete exemption of girls who claim conscientious grounds for exemption. "The great pressure on Israel's manpower in the light of security needs has inevitably reduced the manpower available for other urgent tasks, such as absorption of immigrants, health services, etc.," they pointed out. "While Orthodox girls might be justified in claiming exemption from military service, whereas all other girls spend two years in such service, they could at least be expected to render national service of a non-military character under conditions which could not possibly offend their susceptibilities of conscience," they declared.

300 Orthodox Students Demonstrate in Front of Israel Embassy

LONDON, July 22. (JTA) -- A group of about 300 students from the Agudist Orthodox Seminary today demonstrated in front of the Israel Embassy here carrying banners attacking the Israel Government for introducing in Parliament the bill to conscript for civilian service Israeli girls who are exempted from military service for religious reasons.

Some of the demonstrators tried to batter down the doors of the Embassy but were prevailed upon by others to desist. In the meantime, a delegation of Agudist rabbis called on Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath to protest against the conscription bill.

In one Yeshiva here, the head of the institution refused to grant his students permission to participate in the demonstration. "It is more important that you should not interrupt your study of the Talmud," he told the students.

JORDAN CHARGES ISRAEL WITH VIOLATING THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

TEL AVIV, July 22. (JTA) -- The Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission met yesterday to consider a Jordan charge that Israel had violated the armistice agreement in an act of aggression in the Beth Lechem area.

The Israelis denied the charge, but agreed that the commission should undertake an immediate on-the-spot inquiry, as had been suggested by Jordan. The meeting was chaired by Maj. Gen. Vagn Bennike, United Nations truce chief.

A spokesman for the Israeli Army charged that highly trained Jordanian paramilitary units are carrying out raids in Israel. He revealed that during the last three weeks large amounts of military equipment had been stolen from Israel Army stores in two places. In one case more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition were stolen, he stated.

BRITISH DEPUTY SUGGESTS TRANSFER OF TROOPS FROM SUEZ TO ISRAEL

LONDON, July 22. (JTA) -- A suggestion that "perhaps at the price of considerable economic aid to Israel, British troops could go back there," was made in the House of Commons last night by Major E. A. Legge-Bourke, Conservative deputy, during a debate on foreign affairs.

The Conservative member of the Parliament said that one of the major reasons why Egypt insists on Britain's leaving the Suez Canal is the desire to redeem itself from the shocking defeat suffered in the war with Israel. He pointed out that any likelihood of Egypt ever invading Israel must be avoided for the sake of maintaining peace in the Middle East.

Major Legge-Bourke suggested that a fighting section of the British troops, or a sufficient quantity of them, should be moved from the Suez area to some other place in the Middle East, possibly Israel. Thus, he said, the British fighting forces could remain in the area while the Suez Canal base would be left with a maintenance squad.

ISRAEL PROTESTS EGYPT'S ELECTION TO INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL

LONDON, July 22. (JTA) -- A protest against the election of Egypt as member of the Council of the International Wheat Conference now taking place here was voiced today at the conference by Chaim Margalith, Israel economic attache who is representing the Jewish State at the parley.

"I believe that many members of this assembly feel like myself that a country bound to a policy of boycott against fellow members is not eligible for membership in the Council" the Israeli representative said. He emphasized that the Egyptian Government has been obstructing essential goods cargoes from reaching their destination in Israel.

FRANCE OPPOSES TRANSFER OF ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTRY

PARIS, July 21. (JTA) -- Pierre Gilbert, French Ambassador to Israel, has been instructed by the French Government to protest to Israel against the transfer of the Israeli Foreign Ministry from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, it was announced here today.

ISRAEL'S ANCIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM STILL USABLE, LOWDERMILK SAYS

ROME, July 22. (JTA) -- Ancient irrigation systems in Israel can be copied with good results today and, in some cases, can even be put back into use after cleaning and repair, experts of the U. N. Food and Agriculture Organization reported here.

Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk, a soil scientist from Berkeley, California, and Wayne Miles of Dallas, Texas, have told how modern bulldozers are being used in restoration of 2,000-year-old cisterns in a project conducted under the expanded program of technical assistance of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

Reporting on an exploration of the Southern Negev, beyond Beersheba, Dr. Lowdermilk said that the Nabataeans, whose golden age was from 200 B. C. E. to 200 C. E. and whose capital was Petra, were able to conserve flash flood waters in these regions of low annual rainfall. Their methods were continued under Byzantine rule up to the time of the Islamic invasions in the 7th century.

"Thousands of cisterns for storing rainwater had been dug in the chalky limestone of the lower slopes of the hills," Dr. Lowdermilk stated. "Small open ditches were dug to lead storm run-off of these slopes into the small cistern mouth that opened into a jug-like receptacle underground. These cisterns may be located from considerable distances by the whitish pile of spoil from excavations.

"Much larger cisterns were dug into the chalky cliffs along the larger wadies. The cistern was dug to depths well below the floor of the Wadi channel but the opening was cut about one to one and a half meters above so that the cistern would not be filled with gravel and silt. Such cisterns may have capacities of 25,000 to 70,000 cubic feet. Where needed, columns of chalk were left to support roofs of the excavations."

Plan for Utilizing Ancient System Started By Expert

Water is desperately needed in this desert area now, Dr. Lowdermilk pointed out. Wells are out of the question either because the ground water is saline or because its level is too far down. In an effort to utilize the ancient system Mr. Miles, of the F. A. O. soil conservation team, hit upon a plan for filling the cisterns after they had been cleaned out.

With a bulldozer, he built an earth embankment across the wadi channel just downstream from the cliff-openings into two cisterns. The crude earth dam had no spillway, for it was expected to break when overtopped. The plan worked. The two cisterns were filled with storm waters; the earth-filled dam broke; and the rush of impounded waters swept it away, keeping the bottom of the Wadi channel at its former level.

Dr. Lowdermilk wrote F. A. O. that the filling of the cisterns by the use of a bulldozer for five hours saved water haulage by truck over a distance of 200 kilometers. He reported that the Nabataeans had also learned to store rainwater in soil. "These ancient experts in desert water supplies had learned some basic facts about soil moisture relations," he wrote. These relations involve complicated calculations of capacity of soil to absorb water, evaporation loss, amount of water necessary to grow crops, depth of soil needed to store necessary water, and soil embankment heights necessary for each basin into which water is diverted."

AUSTRIAN GOVT. AVOIDS ISSUING STATEMENT ON INDEMNIFICATION

VIENNA, July 22. (JTA) -- A statement on the indemnification talks between world Jewish groups and the Austrian Government which was to be issued here today by Chancellor Dr. Julius Raab following a meeting of the Cabinet yesterday, was not issued.

Instead, a spokesman for the government announced that both sides had discussed their positions and that negotiations had been postponed until September. He expressed hope for an early settlement of the question in the Fall.

ISRAELI SHIP LEAVES GERMANY WITH GOODS SECURED AS REPARATIONS

COLOGNE, July 22. (JTA) -- The Israeli vessel S. S. Saifa sailed today from the port of Bremen with the first German goods destined for the Jewish State under the terms of the German reparations pact. Meanwhile, shipments of fertilizer and iron products are leaving German factories this week for Antwerp where they will be loaded aboard the Israeli freighter Ezer for shipment to Saifa.

The Israeli purchasing mission here today confirmed that numerous foreign countries have approached it with offers to supply goods to be paid for by Germany from accounts due from the nations involved. The Israelis, however, made it known that such "triangular" transactions can only be carried out when specific goods listed in agreed upon schedules cannot be procured in Germany.

The Israeli mission also pointed out such deals must have the approval of the mixed German-Israeli commission, which considers all disputed or unusual situations arising from implementation of the reparations pact.

GERMAN TRUST FIGHTS VERDICT TO PAY DAMAGES TO EX-SLAVE LABORERS

FRANKFURT, July 22. (JTA) -- The giant German chemical trust I. G. Farben yesterday filed an appeal with the Frankfurt Superior Court against a lower courts decision awarding over \$2,000 in back pay and damages to Norbert Wollheim, one-time Jewish slave laborer who worked for I. G. Farben during the time he was imprisoned at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Mr. Wollheim, a postwar leader of German Jewry who now lives in New York, won the award in a test case which may be of significance for thousands of surviving Jewish slave laborers. It is expected that the appeal will be argued late this year or in 1954, with the loser undoubtedly appealing to the German Supreme Court at Karlsruhe.

COLOGNE JEWISH COMMUNITY SECURES OFFICIAL STATUS IN GERMANY

COLOGNE, July 22. (JTA) -- The status of a "congregation under public law" was restored today to the Cologne Jewish Community. This status, which is enjoyed by churches and congregations of major denominations in Germany, confers certain financial advantages and enables the community to levy congregational taxes with the aid of internal revenue service.

In Munich, Dr. Siegfried Neuland, local attorney and representative in the Bavarian Senate of the Jews in Bavaria, has been renamed president of the local Jewish community. Joint vice-presidents are Heinz Meier, who is also vice-president of the Land Agency for Restitution, and Dr. Baruch Graubard, until its dissolution director of the postwar Hebrew high school here.

PERON RECEIVES ISRAEL MINISTER; LAUDS ISRAEL AND ARGENTINE JEWS

BUENOS AIRES, July 22. (JTA) -- President Juan Peron yesterday received Israel Minister Yaacov Tsur prior to Mr. Tsur's departure for his new post in Paris. Mr. Tsur is scheduled to sail from Argentina this Friday.

During the audience, President Peron stressed the excellent relations between Israel and Argentina, spoke highly of the Argentina Jewish Community and expressed his admiration for the loyalty of the Jews to their traditions. He asserted this loyalty was Israel's strongest guarantee of its future.

Last night, Argentine Foreign Minister Dr. Jeronimo Remorino gave a farewell dinner for Minister Tsur and members of the diplomatic corps were among the guests. During the past week, Mr. Tsur has been honored at luncheons, dinners and receptions by the envoys of France, Greece, Norway and Uruguay.

2,000 JEWISH CHILDREN ATTEND NATIONAL BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE

LOS ANGELES, July 22. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 Jewish youths are attending the Third National Boy Scout Jamboree at nearby Santa Ana, which concludes tomorrow, it was learned here.

Nine rabbis from various states of the union are also attending the jamboree, acting as chaplains for the 2,000 Jewish boys. The nine rabbis were feted here by the Los Angeles Jewish Community Council.

OPENING OF SCHOOL TERM POSTPONED BECAUSE OF ROSH HASHANAH

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 22. (JTA) -- The Montgomery County Board of Education in Maryland has deferred from Sept. 10 to Sept. 14 the opening of the fall school term so as to avoid conflict with Rosh Hashanah, which starts on Sept. 10.

The original date fixed for the reopening of school was Sept. 10. After the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington called the clash with the holiday to its attention, the Board changed the opening date. About 1,500 Jewish children, it is estimated, attend the Montgomery County schools.

THOUSANDS MARK TISHA B'AV AT KING DAVID'S TOMB IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, July 22. (JTA) -- Thousands of Israelis and large numbers of American Jewish youths now visiting Israel yesterday marked Tisha B'Av, the traditional day of mourning for the destroyed Temple, by visiting King David's Tomb on Mt. Zion where they prayed and listened to eulogies of the 6,000,000 Jews martyred by the Nazis in Europe.

In the evening, after the fast was broken, a ceremony was held under an arch near King David's Tomb. During the ceremony 12 Torahs were capped with 12 crowns, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. Also, a cornerstone was taken from Mt. Zion to Ramath Gan to be placed on the foundations of the first building to arise at the Bar Ilan University, sponsored by the Mizrahi Organization of America.

SULTAN OF MOROCCO HONORS JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE LEADER

CASABLANCA, July 22. (JTA) -- William Bein, Joint Distribution Committee director for Morocco, has been honored by the Sultan of Morocco for his work in behalf of some 75,000 Jewish men, women and children in this country. Mr. Bein was named a Knight of Ouissam Alouite, a mark of distinction granted annually to a number of persons.