

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON -- B'nai B'rith, in testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs, called for modification of the 1968 Housing Act to encourage construction of low-cost senior citizens housing by non-profit groups.

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- The highest administrative position ever achieved by a Jewish chaplain in the U. S. Army has been given to Chaplain (Col.) Joseph B. Messing, with his appointment as Deputy Staff Chaplain of the U. S. Army European Headquarters. Simultaneously, the National Jewish Welfare Board Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy received word that Chaplain Messing had been awarded the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious service as director of administration, Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army" from June 1966 to May 1969.

NEW YORK -- The U. S. Continental Army Command has authorized commanders of all Reserve units to release Jewish personnel attending Annual Active Duty Training (ANACDUTRA) one day early so that they may be home in time for Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) services, it was reported by Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow, chairman of the National Jewish Welfare Board's (JWB) Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy and spiritual leader of Temple Beth El, Cedarhurst, N.Y.

BUENOS AIRES (WNS) -- The Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, established a Buenos Aires Chapter.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israeli religious courts are speeding up applications to conversions to Judaism and cutting down the 12 months' waiting time.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Religious Affairs Ministry reported that its budget for mosques and Moslem cemeteries this year totalled almost \$270,000.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Akim, the Israeli Association for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Handicapped, reported it had trained more than 80 youngsters for jobs since it opened its first sheltered workshop in Tel Aviv in 1961 and that 120 teenagers, 14-20, are now receiving schooling from the organization in its chain of workshops.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Since the establishment of the State, 20,000 Israelis have Hebraized their names, according to the Our World newsletter issued by Karen Hayesod.

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA) -- El Al Airlines has received a \$22.6 million Credit Grant from the Export-Import Bank to help finance the purchase of two Jetliners. The credit will go toward the purchase of a Boeing 707 and a Boeing 747, which will cost, including spare engines and related parts and services, 435 million.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The second Israeli-American youth exchange program commenced with the arrival of 24 Israeli teenagers and four adult leaders in the United States for a four-week tour of five Jewish communities. The 15 girls and nine boys are members of B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's.

NEWARK (WNS) -- The New Jersey State Supreme Court has ruled unanimously that the City of Newark must dock the pay of Jewish policemen who take time off for Jewish holidays. Jewish police had been permitted to take such time off with full pay. The court also upheld unanimously the City's authority to grant days off for religious observance to all members of the police force without pay.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Ministry of Tourism and Development reported that 22,500 youths and students visited Israel in 1969 and that this figure will be even higher this year. To serve the needs of young people, the Ministry operates 23 youth hostels with 4,000 beds and plans to open more facilities for youths.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reported that security forces have killed 119 Arab terrorists between January and June 1969. He said that only 41 out of 26,000 Arabs who returned to Israel following the Six-Day War were detailed for subversive activities and sabotage.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds reports that 35 scholarships totaling \$40,675 have been awarded to students for the 1969-70 school year to enable them to pursue careers in Jewish communal service.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Over 200 young Americans are to serve in the Sherut La'am service program in Israel in 1969, according to figures released by the American Zionist Youth Federation.

CONGRESS VOICES STRONG SUPPORT OF \$40,000,000 TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Virtually the entire House Foreign Affairs Committee has voiced strong support for an amendment to the Foreign Aid bill to provide Israel with \$40 million for construction of the world's largest desalination and electricity generating plant planned for the Ashdod region.

Committee members also responded favorably to pleas

for Foreign Aid funds for Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and for the Weizman Institute of Science at Rehovoth but have not, so far, written in such finances in the bill before the House group.

The bi-partisan amendment to the bill calls for a five-year, \$40 million payment by the United States toward construction of the desalting installation. For-

mer President Lyndon Johnson, in one of his final acts before leaving office, approved the project but the Nixon Administration has yet to take a public position on the amendment.

Israel would pay \$100 million of the construction cost. The facility would produce nearly 40 million gallons of fresh water daily and also generate electricity. For the Ashdod region the water would mean intensive irrigation of about 25,000 acres of land and transmission of electricity to the Gaza area to aid Arab agriculture and industry.

A number of desalination experts testified in support of the plant and noted that the U.S. would receive all the benefits of advances in

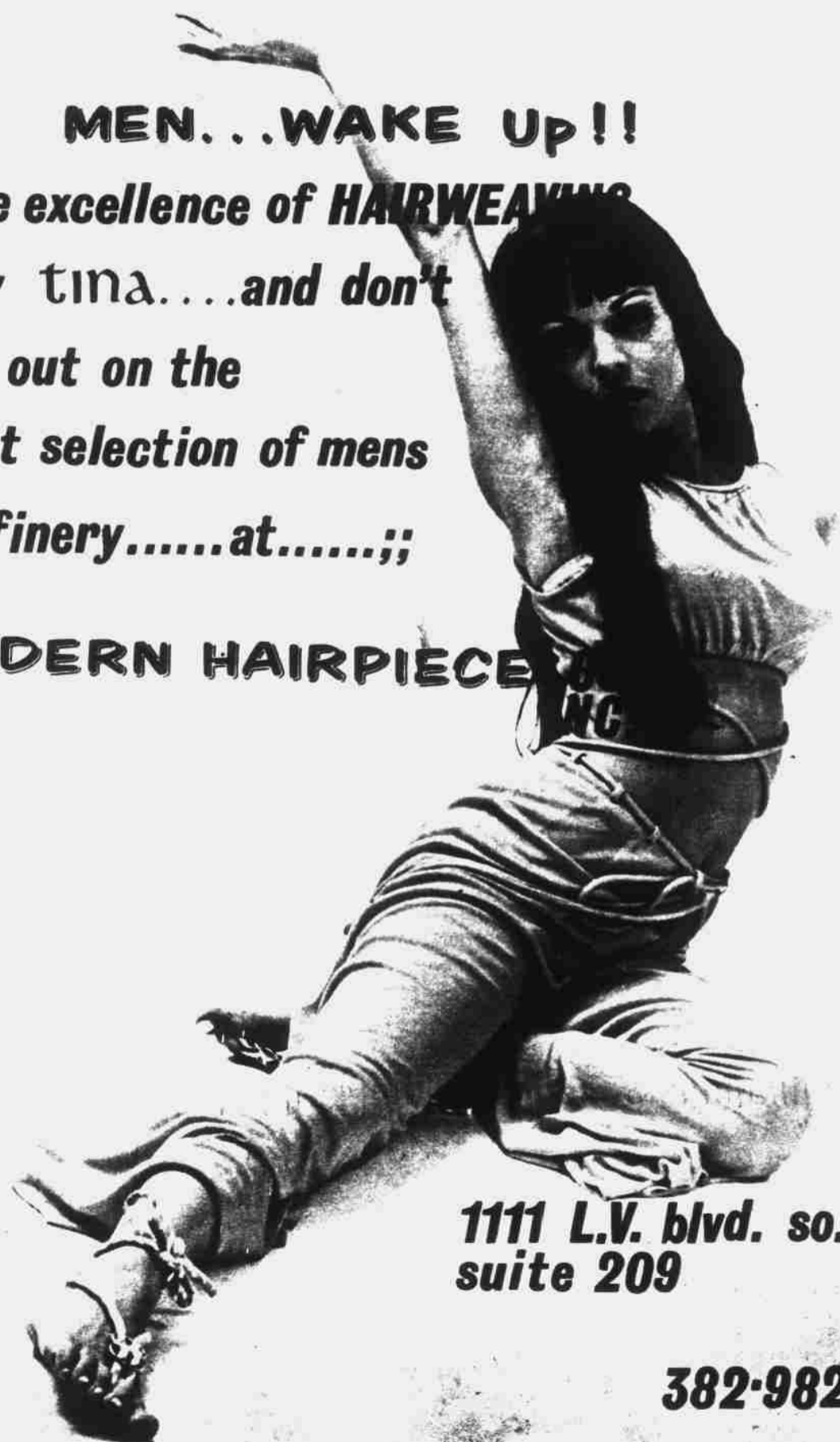
desalting technology developed at the installation. Israel has already tapped almost 95 percent of the available water and the plant could result in major scientific breakthroughs in desalting brackish water.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, asked for approval of a five-year, \$5 million grant for the Hadassah Hospital's teaching and research program. Mrs. Max Schenk, Hadassah president, told the committee Jews and Arabs including members of the El Fatah terrorist group, were treated at the hospital.

Committee members recommended that the Hadassah request be reviewed with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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