

Passover Roundup

NEW YORK (WNS)--As American Jews observed the Passover holiday, many Jewish leaders drew an analogy between the flight of the Israelites from Egypt 3,000 years ago and the struggle of Soviet Jewry to be free. Local and national Jewish leaders released holiday greetings which focused on the pertinence of the Passover message of freedom to events in Russia and the Middle East today. "Jews languishing in Arab lands, abused and imprisoned, must not be forgotten," they said, as they noted that thousands of Jews will be observing Passover for the first time as free people in Israel, this year. Their messages observed that the cause of Soviet Jewry has attracted an "impressive segment of our otherwise alienated youth" to a rediscovery of their Jewishness.

The Federation of Jewish Ohlathropies of New York and its affiliated agencies held a series of seders for the aged, the ill and the indigent and for children and the handicapped. The Federation's Joint Passover Association also made it possible for thousands of needy

families to enjoy the festival in their homes. The coincidence of Passover and Easter this year prompted Catholics and Jews in Philadelphia to share the Passover seder as a means of furthering inter-religious understanding. The Jewish Welfare Board announced that seders were held for Jewish servicemen in Vietnam and in 600 other overseas and domestic military installations.

In Israel, internal and external troubles were forgotten as the holiday began. Hotel rooms were unavailable and food prices were high, but holiday foods and delicacies were in abundance. The Army's chaplaincy corps provided Passover foods and Haggadahs to all military posts and field kitchens. Wine was served at military bases (Passover being the only time of the year this is permitted) but soldiers on guard duty or active patrol were permitted only grape juice. A group of new immigrants from the Soviet Union attended a special seder at Neve Sharett, a residential quarter near Tel Aviv. For many of them it was the first seder they had ever attended.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY

WASHINGTON (WNS)--Senator Gordon L. Allott, Republican of Colorado and chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, declared his opposition to the use of Soviet troops in a Middle East peace-keeping force. His objections were echoed by Senator Birch Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, in an address to the Lawyers' Division Dinner of the UJA of Greater New York. Senator Bayh also urged caution in urging Israeli withdrawal to its pre-June 1967 borders since it would "strip her of the physical security it gained at such enormous cost." At a Welfare Fund Appeal Dinner in Cleveland, Senator William B. Saxbee, Representative of Ohio, stated "I reject the Jarring formula seeking to force Israel from its present area."

LOS ANGELES (WNS)--Two hundred members of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jewry and the California Students for Soviet Jews picketed the May Company, the city's largest department store, to protest the selling of Soviet caviar, vodka and furs and giving floor space to a travel agency selling tours to the Soviet Union.

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