

Israel Water Break thru

While the world searches for energy to keep machines running, the United States and Israel are entering into a partnership to combat hunger and sustain life by a new process to desalt water.

A scientific, cost-cutting breakthrough in Israel has finally led to a long-delayed U.S.-Israel desalination agreement which, it is expected, will be consummated before the fiscal year expires on June 30.

More than 11 years have passed since the late President Johnson announced U.S. - Israel cooperation for desalting.

Five years ago, Congress voted \$20 million to pay the U.S. share, approving the Rosenthal-Frelinghuysen-Nelson amendment to the foreign aid bill.

Now, finally, after intermittent and protracted negotiations, the United States will help in the construction of a prototype plant at Ashdod.

Israel has pioneered in desalting research for 20 years to solve a desperate water deficiency which jeopardizes her agricultural and industrial production.

The new distillation process, developed by Israel Desalination Engineering Ltd. (IDÉ) will cut the cost of desalted water from 60 cents per 1,000 gallons to less than 24 cents -- under the standard guidelines worked out by the U.S. Office of Saline Waters -- a feasible price, not only for Israel but also for arid zones in the United States and in many drought-stricken countries.

Israel scientists scrapped copper alloy tubes which are expensive and unstable in price. They are using aluminum pipes, laid horizontally, which can resist corrosion, providing cooler water is used. That will slash energy costs.

The process is now in operation at Eilat, where a small plant, desalting a million gallons a day, was built by Israel for \$3.4 million. That structure was originally in the joint project, but Israel had to go it alone.

Under the new agreement, Israel and the United States will jointly plan and build a test module at Ashdod, to be followed by a prototype plant which will desalt 10 million gallons per day and which will be linked with the Eshkol power plant. The construction and five-year operating cost will be \$55 million, of which the United States will contribute \$20 million, the amount voted by Congress in 1970. The United States is acquiring full patent rights and know-how developed by Israel.

Water for peace has long been a brave and popular slogan. Vast nuclear energy projects, purifying water and producing power far exceeding regional needs, were put forward in 1967.

And so, barring unforeseen hurdles, a water-hungry world will witness innovation of the only new major research development in a field too long neglected -- a tiny cost compared to the high bills we pay for weapons and the huge tolls exacted by hunger.

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- Between June 4 to 16 1,255 Rumanians, Jews and non-Jews, were granted permission to leave the country.

"MOSES-THE LAWGIVER" ON CBS SAT. NTS. UNTIL AUG. 2. SEE IT

By David Horowitz

NEW YORK (WUP) -- Italy has resurrected the life of the Hero of the Exodus -- portrayed both realistically and inspirationally by Burt Lancaster -- in a six-series television production titled "Moses -- the Lawgiver."

Filmed, in Israel, in Israel with the first scene being shot in Rome during the summer of 1973, the historic production was brought to the United States last week and the first of the series was shown on CBS Saturday night, June 21.

A co-production of RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana and Associated Television Corporation, Ltd., the film carries one basic message, and that is that the Jewish people under its liberator, Moses, were the first in the world to throw off the yoke of slavery and seek liberty and freedom.

Director Gianfranco De Bosio, who was present at a special preview screening of the fourth episode of the series attended also by this writer in the Auditorium of the Library of the Museum of the Performing Arts in Lincoln Center, put it in these words:

"We have approached the Bible as an account of a series of historical events, though not only that. To my mind, the books of the Bible which are concerned with the actions of Moses contain a very contemporary parable: man, reduced to slavery, projects himself towards the struggle for freedom, the moral search, a search within himself for the real freedom that he has been granted. This leads to the laws from Mount Sinai. Moses offers them to his people as a code for freedom."

Burt Lancaster, who was present at the screening and still sports his impressive Mosaic beard, told this writer that he was most enthusiastic about this new role he was privileged to play. "I would never have accepted to work in a Cecil B. De Mille-type colossal production," he said. "But I did accept to play a leading role in this Moses for two definite reasons. First of all, because the text is very beautiful from a literary point of view as well as being successful as a show. Also for the way the writers have approached the figure of Moses, who symbolizes the whole Jewish people. The film wishes to suggest the historical idea of the Jewish people's becoming aware of a great principle: the absolute and unsurmountable contradiction between authoritarianism and freedom."

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