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BEN-GURION THREATENS TO RESIGN; INSISTS ON SHOWDOWN IN LAVON CASE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who left today on an official vacation of five to six weeks, has prepared and signed a letter of resignation ready for submission if he fails to obtain firm support from both the Israel Cabinet and his Mapai party in his fight against Pinhas Lavon, the former Defense Minister who was exonerated at a Cabinet meeting in the "Lavon Affair" over the Prime Minister's opposition.

Press reports said today that the Prime Minister suggested, in his resignation letter, that Moshe Sharett, former Prime Minister, be nominated to succeed him both as Prime Minister and Defense Minister. At the same time, it was reported that twice during the past 24 hours, Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres and other Mapai party leaders backing the Prime Minister visited him at his home in an effort to persuade him not to submit his letter of resignation.

In a counter to reports of the Prime Minister's threats to resign, sources close to Mr. Lavon were circulating a report today that Mr. Lavon might resign as secretary-general of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, if the Cabinet reversed a decision, made two weeks ago, which cleared him of the responsibility for a 1954 "security mishap" which brought about his resignation in 1955.

That reversal was one of Mr. Ben-Gurion's ultimatum demands. The other was for a judicial inquiry to go into the entire situation. The Cabinet vote exonerating Mr. Lavon was on a unanimous report of a Ministerial Committee which cleared the Histadrut official and charged that an unnamed senior army officer forged a document which made it appear that Mr. Lavon had ordered the disastrous action.

A meeting of the Secretariat of the Mapai scheduled for today in a new effort to prevent a wide-open split in the ranks of the party to which both the Prime Minister and Mr. Lavon belong, was postponed first for 24 hours and then until Wednesday. It was not certain that it would be held even then because no solution appeared to be in the offing which would satisfy the Prime Minister without "sacrificing" Mr. Lavon.

Israel Parliament Scheduled to Discuss Dispute Today

The next public airing of the widening dispute was scheduled for tomorrow at a session of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament. The General Zionists put on the agenda an urgent motion to discuss the "interrupted work of the Government" caused by the Prime Minister's lengthy and abrupt vacation and his resignation threat. The General Zionists indicated plans to press the contention that the issue was a national affair and not merely of party concern.

As a former Chief of Staff, Gen. Moshe Dayan submitted documents to a Knesset committee yesterday purporting to disprove Mr. Lavon's charge that an order was given without his knowledge as Defense Minister and that another order was carried out contrary to his instructions. General Dayan placed the documents after a majority of Israel's Cabinet held Sunday that while the issue before it was considered closed, it was authorizing Justice Minister Pinhas Rosen to place Gen. Dayan's report before the Knesset Committee together with the unanimous findings of the Ministerial Committee.

Mr. Lavon widened the dispute in a published interview today in which he warned he would not acquiesce in any unilateral investigation by the Knesset Security committee. He said in the interview that, in any such investigation, he would demand that the Prime Minister also be investigated.

The Knesset debate may disclose the existence of three Mapai factions in the dispute. One is made up of Education Minister Abba Eban, Agricultural Minister Moshe Dayan and Labor Minister Giora Josephthal, who were reported ready to support the Prime Minister to the last. Another was comprised of Mrs. Golda Meir, Foreign Minister, and Minister of Commerce and Industry Pinhas Sapir, who were reported not inclined to bale out the Prime Minister out of fear of setting a dangerous precedent of overturning a majority Cabinet vote. Both were reported ready to resign over the issue.

The third was made up of Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and Minister of Police Behor Shitreet who, having served on the Ministerial Committee, would not countenance a reversal of the unanimous findings which they helped to formulate.

GOLDMANN SAYS U.S. PRESS DISTORTED BEN-GURION'S SPEECH ON 'GODLESSNESS'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, today read out at the World Zionist Congress a statement in which he declared that Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion had been quoted out of context in reports in the American press of his address last week, which provoked much criticism on the part of American Jewish organizations.

Dr. Goldmann strongly deplored the misinterpretation of the passage in Mr. Ben-Gurion's speech referring to "godlessness" of Jews who do not emigrate to Israel. He declared that the interpretation given was totally unwarranted by the speech as a whole, and that the Prime Minister, discussing immigration to Israel, had mentioned in passing that Orthodox Jews must realize there are religious commandments which can only be fulfilled in Israel.

"It was clear to all of us, and especially it was emphasized by the Prime Minister, that only a minority of Jews were considered governed by this approach," Dr. Goldmann said. "It was clear to the audience that there was no intention on the Prime Minister's part to ascribe godlessness to those Jews who do not emigrate to Israel or to Jewry outside of Israel generally."

Dr. Goldmann also bitterly deplored the attitude of American Jewish leaders who reacted with "violent protests" which ascribed to the Prime Minister, without justification, statements which were not justified by the address as a whole. He said that the speech had been distorted by two New York newspapers, adding that the distortions had resulted from misquotation but by making one phrase, selected from a lengthy speech, appear as the principal content of the speech.

Religious Zionists, Hadassah Find No Fault with Ben-Gurion's Views

Rabbi Bernard Bergmann, president of the Religious Zionists of America, also defended Mr. Ben-Gurion from the criticisms voiced by other Jewish leaders in the United States. The Mizrahi leader, who is one of the American delegates to the World Zionist Congress, decried "the fashion in which Mr. Ben-Gurion was attacked" by Jewish organizations in New York. He said that the remark made by Mr. Ben-Gurion, that no religious Jew can fulfill the whole Torah when residing outside of Israel, did not originate with the Israel Prime Minister, but that he merely quoted "the dicta of our sages."

Hadassah issued a statement here expressing surprise that the Prime Minister's remarks had caused such excitement and misunderstanding. "It caused no uneasiness or disturbance among the delegations," the Hadassah statement added. "The quotation was a symbolic and mystic expression of the everlasting connection of the Jewish people with Israel, and was not to be taken literally. Nor was it so taken by the large audience which heard it."

Before the controversy over the speech developed, such American Zionist leaders as Dr. Emanuel Neumann and Mrs. Rose Halprin described it as "restrained," and a good augury for future relations, a reaction which strengthened indications that the Prime Minister had been quoted out of context and thus aroused the ire of a wide variety of American Jewish leaders.

Label A. Katz, president of B'nai B'rith, paid tribute, at a Congress session, to the historic role of the Zionist movement. Speaking on the question of the relationships of Israel and non-Israeli Jewish communities, Mr. Katz remarked that "the concept of God cannot be confined in time and space to any community" and that to do otherwise "would seriously negate" the 2,000 years of the Jewish heritage outside of Israel.

BEN-GURION TERMS REPORTS OF HIS SPEECH 'DISTORTED'; LAUDS U.S. JEWRY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, in an interview given here to the Associated Press, said that his speech at the Zionist Congress last week which provoked criticism on the part of Jewish organizations in the United States because of his reference to Orthodox Jews who do not settle in Israel, was in no way meant to be offensive to American Jewry. He emphasized that his words and his intentions have been "distorted" in the reports which appeared in American newspapers.

"It appears that the totality of what I had to say on the subject has got lost through quite impropotional stress that has been laid on some passages which were themselves not properly related abroad," the Prime Minister stated. "No observer of the Jewish scene who is in his senses can possibly underestimate the decisive importance of American Jewry to the entirety of the Jewish people and in the creation and buttressing of the young State of Israel."

"In fact, in my speech I put the emergence of the American Jewish community as a positive development in Jewish life on a par with the miracle of Israel's rebirth which helped Jewry to withstand the great blows of the isolation and paralysis of Soviet Jewry for the last 40 years and the holocaust in Europe at the hands of the Nazis. Often in the past I have had the occasion to express admiration for what that community has done for world Jewry and Israel since the end of the first World War."

"It is true I am deeply concerned that Judaism in the free lands may gradually be weakened unless positive action is taken. But truly you know that this concern I share

with responsible Jewish leadership everywhere including the United States. In the United States, leaders of every one of the different organizations keep preaching the need for an education towards a more profound Jewishness especially through the study of the Hebrew language which is the key to understanding of the Jewish spiritual legacy and especially the Bible.

"Jewish leaders from America who came to see me have told me of this anxiety of theirs and of their efforts to combat negative tendencies," the Prime Minister continued. "In fact I have often been requested to raise my voice in unison with theirs in calling upon Jewish parents everywhere to see to it that the heritage of our people is not lost to their children.

"This concern, which I have expressed on this score, differs therefore in no way from what is being said by responsible Jewish leadership everywhere and I do profoundly hope that we in this country will be able to concert action with Jewish leadership in the United States and in other countries in order to work out constructive practical programs in the sphere of Jewish education with the purpose of deepening the Jewish spiritual heritage everywhere."

Ben-Gurion Emphasizes He Does Not Think U.S. Jewry is Godless

Replying to the question whether he said that Jews who live outside of Israel are godless, Mr. Ben-Gurion stated: "The formulation of what I am supposed to have said amounts to a distortion of my words and of my intentions. A major part of my speech was devoted to the theme of the vital need for Aliyah. I explained why the State of Israel needs more educated Jews. On this theme which as you know concerns me most profoundly I went into some detail. At one point I was addressing myself specifically to the minority of Orthodox Jews and I reminded them that according to the Talmud, some of the commandments of the Jewish religion are linked with the Land of Israel.

"As an example of this, I quoted the Talmud which says at one point that 'whosoever dwells outside the land of Israel is likened to one who has no God.' I did not coin this phrase. The only thing I did was to quote the Talmud on this point to those Jews who believe that every word in the Talmud is obligatory to them. Certainly, I do not think that American Jewry is godless and it is senseless to attribute such a thought to me," Mr. Ben-Gurion stressed.

The Prime Minister added that he believes "profoundly" that "the fruitful interchange and cooperation between the great Jewish community of the United States and the independent Jewish community in the Jewish State can and will produce great results from Israel, for the Jews of the United States and for the Jewish people as a whole."

GOLDMANN ANALYZES REQUEST FOR U.S. YOUTH IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, replying at the Zionist Congress here to some of the speeches, said that in view of the "positive" nature of Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's address, there was no room for polemics and that he only wanted to comment on two points made by the Prime Minister.

Dr. Goldmann said that telling American Jews, particularly the youth, that there were foreigners in their homeland would simply bring a negative reaction and not immigration. However, he said, appealing to their spirit of pioneering could bring many thousands, particularly since in recent years there has been less satisfaction in the United States with material abundance only and a search for spiritual values.

He said that the Prime Minister's insistence that deeds, not words, counted, was correct but that it had grave implications. He said that when the Prime Minister and other speakers talked about 100,000 Jewish youth coming from Western countries to Israel for two years, they had to realize that this would call for hundreds of top rate additional schools and thousands of new teachers.

His sharpest rebuttal, which was made in a friendly manner, was to the speech by Menahem Beigin, Herut leader, and particularly to Beigin's assertion that the Jewish people could not remain neutral in the East-West struggle but must join on the side of the West. "Terming that statement 'irresponsible,'" Dr. Goldmann said the Jewish people as such would be in a final tragic split with the cutting off of 3,500,000 Jews in the Soviet bloc.

"I am convinced that Russia can solve the Jewish problem only by permitting some emigration to Israel," he said. "There is no reason why some day Moscow will not reach the same conclusion as that of other East European governments, that those Jews who are unable to integrate in the nation's economic and social life should be permitted to depart."

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, expressed regret in her address during the general debate that Israel had not succeeded in establishing cordial relations with the Soviet Union in line with its policy of seeking friendship with all nations without regard to their political systems. She emphasized that Israel was maintaining good relations with many East European countries.

She explained to the delegates that there were both moral and political reasons for Israel's assistance to the newly independent African nations. She devoted a large part of her speech, made in Yiddish, to demonstrating that the Arabs themselves reject the claim of President Nasser of the United Arab Republic to speak for all Arabs.

ISRAEL STARTS NEW YEAR WITH HIGHER PRICES ON FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Israelis faced the new year of 1961 with higher prices for essential commodities and services like bread and bus transportation. Both the bakers and the bus cooperatives were authorized to increase their prices, beginning today, by 10 percent.

The result of the price hikes is expected to be an increase in government payments of cost-of-living premiums. Finance Ministry experts were watching the cost-of-living index, and were hoping they might be able to curb an inflationary spiral which could result from the higher prices which Israelis must pay now.

ISRAEL CABINET APPROVES \$20,000 FEE TO EICHMANN'S DEFENSE LAWYER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- The Cabinet yesterday approved the request by Cologne attorney Robert Servatius for the Israel Government to pay \$20,000 to cover the legal fee and expenses for his defense of Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi war criminal who directed the mass killing of 6,000,000 Jews in Europe, and who is scheduled to go on trial here in two months.

Justice Minister Pinhas Rosen, who reported the request to the Cabinet, noted that there was no other source of funds to pay the fee and the expenses.

GENERAL TSUR FORMALLY INSTALLED AS CHIEF OF ISRAEL'S ARMED FORCES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Brigadier Zvi Tsur, for the last two years Deputy Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, today was formally installed as Chief of Staff, and promoted to the rank of Major General. He succeeds Major General Haim Laskov, who has retired.

General Tsur was formally installed into his new office by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who was acting in his capacity as Defense Minister. Members of Israel's Cabinet, and the highest echelons of Israel's Army, attended the ceremonies.

BARNETT JANNER, PROMINENT JEWISH LEADER, KNIGHTED BY QUEEN OF ENGLAND

LONDON, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Barnett Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and Labor member of Parliament, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II this weekend. His name appeared on Queen Elizabeth's New Year honor list.

An outstanding leader of British and world Jewry, Mr. Janner, in addition to heading the Board of Deputies, is also active in many other Jewish organizations. He is vice-president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, a member of the executive of the Anglo-Israel Association, and a member of the Actions Committee of the World Zionist Organization.

18,000 ATTEND SECOND CHANUKAH FESTIVAL OF ISRAEL BOND ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- More than 18,000 persons attended the second performance tonight of the Israel Bond Chanukah Festival at Madison Square Garden. A similar capacity audience attended the first performance on December 19. The two Festivals marked the culmination of a year-long campaign to raise \$15,000,000 through the sale of Israel bonds in the New York metropolitan area.

Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization, and Ira Guilden, general chairman of the Greater New York Committee, told the audience tonight that the past decade has seen major progress made in Israel with the aid of American dollars and pointed out that the next decade is as crucial for Israel as the past ten years have been. Mr. Guilden reported that a total of \$110,250,000 had been raised through the sale of Israel bonds in the New York metropolitan area since the inception of the bond campaign in 1951.

Mr. Feinberg lauded the efforts of the New York community for its support of Israel during the past ten years and said that as a result of Israel bond aid "Israel stands on the threshold of economic independence."

ONLY 500 JEWS RETURNED TO AGADIR; JEWISH LIFE IS BEING REBUILT

CASABLANCA, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Jewish communal life in disaster-shattered Agadir, where the Jewish population now numbers 500, is slowly being rebuilt, authorities reported today.

Most of the one-time residents still have not returned and are living a few miles away in Inezgame. M. M. Moryousse, the head of the Agadir Jewish community, who lost both his family and his property in the earthquake and tidal wave of last year, has returned to Agadir to resume his communal functions.

A Jewish school is functioning in Agadir under the supervision of the rabbi of Inezgame. Reconstruction of the battered city remains the principal concern of the authorities. A delegation of the victims of the disaster has asked an audience with King Mohammed to draw to his attention the miserable conditions in which they live. The delegation has not yet been received by the king.