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ESHKOL SEEKS SOLUTION TO PREVENT PREMIER BEN-GURION'S RESIGNATION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- Israel's Finance Minister Levi Eshkol spent his day today pleading with members of the Israel Cabinet and with leaders of the Mapai party to prevent the resignation of Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion over his rift with Pinhas Lavon, Secretary General of the Histadrut--Israel's Federation of Labor. Mr. Eshkol advocates a solution which should be satisfactory to all sides involved.

Mr. Eshkol's effort seems to go in the direction of satisfying the Prime Minister, who does not recognize the exoneration by the Cabinet of Mr. Lavon as responsible for the failure of a 1954 action by the Defense Department. At the same time, Mr. Eshkol does not seek reversal of the Cabinet decision which exonerated Mr. Lavon. The proposed compromise seems to be, that an investigation committee be established which should find out who did give the order for the 1954 "unfortunate affair," when Mr. Lavon was Defense Minister, since the Cabinet has accepted the view that Mr. Lavon himself did not give this order.

The entire matter will come up for a decision on Thursday, at a meeting of the secretariat of the Mapai party, of which both Ben-Gurion and Lavon are leading members. The meeting will also discuss the position of Mrs. Golda Meir, Foreign Minister, and Pinhas Sapir, Minister of Commerce and Industry, who indicated that they will resign from their posts should the Cabinet do anything that may be considered as reversing its decision which declared Mr. Lavon blameless of the 1954 debacle.

All Non-Mapai Members of Cabinet Back Lavon's Exoneration

Mr. Ben-Gurion's supporters today suggested that the Premier form a new Government, appointing to the Cabinet those members of Mapai whom he prefers for Cabinet posts. The pro-Lavon faction, however, insists such a move would not resolve the Ben-Gurion-Lavon dispute, since the reorganization of the Cabinet would only strengthen Ben-Gurion's hand in fighting Lavon.

Mediators between the two factions suggest that Mr. Ben-Gurion be exempted from the Cabinet rule of "collective responsibility." Should Mr. Ben-Gurion be freed from the rule, under which he must support a decision adopted by a majority of the Cabinet, he could continue his fight against what he calls "the whitewash" of Lavon--and at the same time remain in the Cabinet.

Both proposals are being opposed by non-Mapai members of the coalition Government. Mapam and Ahdut Avoda have issued official statements expressing opposition to a reversal in any form of the Cabinet's previous decision exonerating Lavon. Newspapers today reported that Minister of Justice Pinhas Rosen, a member of the Progressive party, is also threatening to resign if the Cabinet decision clearing Lavon is reversed. The Religious party, too, is known to be in opposition to such a move.

Backers of Lavon today claim that yesterday's reports that Lavon would resign from his high Histadrut post emanated from his opponents. On the other hand, Mapai circles are concerned about the reported Lavon threat to quit, saying that they expect him to "leave with a big bang." The Lavon backers are using the slogan, "Vanquishing Justice by Power," and Mapai activists fear that this view, if pushed further, may rock the entire Mapai party.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT PRESENTS \$1,046,550,000 BUDGET TO PARLIAMENT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- The Israeli Parliament today started studying the new 1961-62 budget which, as introduced by the Finance Ministry, calls for expenditures totaling \$1,046,550,000, more than 11 percent higher than the budget for the current fiscal year.

Of the total, some 445,000,000 pounds (\$249,200,000) is allocated for development, and about 200,000,000 pounds (\$112,000,000) for special allocations and debt repayments. About a quarter of the ordinary budget, or 300,000,000 pounds (\$168,000,000) is earmarked for the Defense Ministry. A similar sum is budgeted for the Ministries of Education, Health, Labor and Social Welfare, including appropriations for state housing. The Ministry for Religious Affairs will receive nearly 6,000,000 pounds (\$3,360,000), an increase of about half million Israeli pounds over the current budget.

AMERICAN DELEGATES EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AT WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- The views of American Zionists with regard to various aspects of the Zionist movement were expressed at today's session of the World Zionist Congress during the general debate following the main addresses.

Dr. Israel Goldstein outlined four criteria for determining "the present realities and the future prospects" of American Zionism. He listed them as 1. Financial support of Israel; 2. Moral support of Israel; 3. Jewish education; 4. Immigration to Israel.

Declaring that most of the fund-raising now is in the hands of non-Zionists, Dr. Goldstein stated that "a share of the blame" for that fact must be allocated to the Government of Israel. He warned that, with the establishment of the new Jewish Agency, Inc., administered by a non-Zionist majority, the spending of the monies will also be in the jurisdiction of non-Zionists. However, he stated, this is a development that cannot be reversed.

"When it comes to moral support for Israel," he said, "the Zionist movement in America plays a role more important than surface appearances indicate." As for the possibilities of American Jewish emigration to Israel, Dr. Goldstein expressed the belief that "the potential is greater than most people think."

Rabbi Irving Miller, president of the American Zionist Council, told the Congress that American Zionism was a "precious treasure" for Israel, for the Zionist movement and for the Jewish community of America. He warned leaders both in Israel and in the United States neither to tamper with nor to underestimate this potential.

Citing the recent decision of the Jewish Agency to transfer many functions to the American Zionist Council, Rabbi Miller expressed the hope that the transfer would be one of depth and not merely a technical one. He said that, for these functions, the Zionist movement in the United States would require large sums which would undoubtedly be mobilized. To do this, he added, a sympathetic atmosphere must be created, so that the potential of American Zionism would not be destroyed.

Judge Levinthal Says Jews in U.S. Do Not Fear Anti-Semitism

Ezra Shapiro, of Cleveland, proposed the disbanding of all Zionist parties outside of Israel because "they are nothing but stumbling blocks" to the expansion and unity of the Zionist movement. He added that it was wrong to constantly bear down on non-Israeli Jewry while stating simultaneously that a full understanding between all parts of the Jewish people was being sincerely sought.

Judge Louis Levinthal, of Philadelphia, declared that many American Jews who have settled in Israel did so in a quest for a different kind of Jewish life. He challenged the suggestion that American Jews emigrated to Israel out of fear of anti-Semitism in the United States.

Judge Levinthal said it was not fair to evaluate Aliyah from the United States as disappointing, or to consider it as having come to an end. Israel, however, must strive to create a way of life that will serve as a challenge to every young man and woman to be impelled to settle in Israel, he added.

Rabbi Joseph Shubow, of Boston, scored Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion for criticism of American Zionists on the Aliyah issue. Recalling that many Jews stayed behind in ancient Babylon, Rabbi Shubow said: "If American Jews work side by side with you, are they to be blamed because, due to historical causes, they are not in Israel?"

Rabbi Max Nussbaum, of Los Angeles, said that the Jewish State was an essential instrumentality for the continuity of Jewish life throughout the world. Galut no longer exists in the traditional sense, he added, and it was "absurd" to adopt the same approach toward Western countries as was taken in regard to East European countries. Citing the large number of returnees from Israel in the United States, Rabbi Nussbaum said the absorption methods needed overhauling.

Problem of Jewish Education in U.S. Stressed by Speakers

Dr. Joseph Tannenbaum, of New York, said that just as Israel was preoccupied with internal security, so American Jewry was preoccupied with the struggle against assimilation. He said more instructors from Israel were needed and added that Hebrew should become the second language of American Jewry.

Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, American Mizrahi leader, speaking as a member of a group "which regards Hebrew first as a Holy tongue," said that the Hebrew language, important as it was, would not in itself bring about the redemption. He said Hebrew was no more than a by-product of the process of national awakening, a process which he said must be based on a return to sources. He said only a full observant Jewish life could guarantee a link with the people.

Mrs. Bert Goldstein, former Pioneer Women president, asked whether Israel was making a real effort to understand non-Israeli Jews. She said that to the non-Zionist abroad Zionism was a matter of philanthropy and she called on the Congress to provide an agency for education and training to achieve a large aliyah. Youth in the dispersion should be oriented toward Israel, she said.

ZIONIST RABBIS INTERPRET BEN-GURION'S STATEMENT ON 'GODLESSNESS'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- Rabbis from many areas of the world, attending the Zionist Congress here, held an informal symposium today, agreeing that the statement made last week by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, which aroused adverse criticisms overseas, were based on "proper and justified" interpretations of the Talmud.

However, the rabbis said, it is incorrect to state that most commandments (mitzvot) can be observed only in Israel, since the precepts that are linked with the Holy Land are few. The consensus among the rabbis was that Mr. Ben-Gurion's view, to the effect that a religious Jew violates the precepts if he lives abroad, applies only to those who have the possibility of emigrating to Israel.

(The New York Times today carries a cable from Jerusalem signed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann and Max Bressler, leaders of the American Zionist Organization, expressing "much amazement and not a little chagrin" over the fact that the Times correspondent in Israel "lifted out of context" a passage from Premier Ben-Gurion's two-hour long address which lent "the wrong impression" as if the Jews living today outside of Israel are godless.

("We regret that the usually well informed New York Times should have so thoroughly misunderstood and misconstrued the Premier's words, which were aimed at encouraging young Jews from all over the free world in a spirit of American pioneering to help in the upbuilding of the young and democratic State of Israel," the ZOA leaders said in their cable. "We who as the heads of the Zionist Organization of America delegation to the congress attended the session and heard the Premier's address can bear witness to the true burden of Mr. Ben-Gurion's statement which, if properly understood, was intended to bolster an idealistic pioneering movement and not to start a theological controversy.")

CONGRESS TO DISCUSS LIBERAL IMMIGRATION MEASURES BACKED BY KENNEDY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- Liberalized immigration quotas are one of the legislative measures almost certain to pass the new, 87th Congress, which opened here today. A number of legislators in both Houses have gone on record as planning to fight for a liberal immigration bill in this session. They can be certain of support by the Administration.

One of the immigration bills to be introduced later this week has the specific endorsement of President-elect John F. Kennedy. Representative Alfred E. Santangelo released a letter from Mr. Kennedy, dated October 8, in which the proposed bill was described as "a sound basis for legislative action." Rep. Santangelo, a New York Democrat, included four provisions in his bill:

1. To allow over 40,000 persons now separated from their families in the U.S. to enter the country outside the quota system.
2. To base the national quota on up-to-date census reports, instead of the 1920 census.
3. To distribute the unused quotas of some nations to those with more prospective immigrants than their quotas.
4. To authorize the Attorney General to admit up to 60,000 refugees a year.

Some of these measures were included in bills introduced in previous years, but passage has been blocked. Senator Jacob Javits and a number of others served notice last year that they would no longer yield to pressure by opponents of liberal immigration, who used the tactics of submitting an alternative "little or nothing" to prevent meaningful legislation.

The President-elect in his letter to Rep. Santangelo said he believed the most important immediate objective of immigration reform was the re-uniting of families. He also called for the abolition of the National Origins Quota System and its replacement with a "more equitable method of regulating the inflow of immigrants."

Senator Kennedy's call for the abolition of the National Quota System is especially significant, since this method of according visas would be retained under Rep. Santangelo's bill. Thus the President-elect went even further in his letter of endorsement than the bill which he endorsed. With the support of the White House, advocates of liberalized immigration stand a much better chance to push legislation through.

Liberal members of Congress from both parties are fighting now to eliminate rules which block liberal legislation in general and in the field of civil rights in particular. Among the measures suggested by proponents of civil rights legislation is the establishment of a Federal fair employment practices commission which would have authority of sanctions.

TWO ISRAELI FREIGHTERS LAUNCHED IN GERMANY; BUILT AS REPARATIONS

BREMEN, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- A 10,300-ton freighter was launched today at the Bremer Vulkan yards for Zim lines and named "Beersheba." A 22,000-ton freighter was also launched at the Deutsche Werft here. It was named the Har Sinai and built for the El Yam Corporation. Both vessels were built under the German reparations agreement with Israel.

BONN GOVERNMENT DENIES REPORTS ON GERMAN LOAN TO ISRAEL

BONN, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- Israeli press reports regarding an alleged "imminent" loan from West Germany to Israel were denied here today by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. There is no basis for such reports, the spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- The establishment of a World Conference of Jewish Organizations was formalized here tonight at a meeting of 50 delegates representing major Jewish organizations in various countries. Dr. Nahum Goldmann was elected chairman of the presidium; Label Katz, co-chairman; and Sir Barnett Janner, vice-chairman.

The meeting approved a decision by the preparatory committee to call a world conference on Jewish education. The delegates also discussed the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union and North Africa, as well as the question of approaching the Pope in connection with the forthcoming Ecumenical Year.

The organizations represented in the conference were: the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the French CRIF, the Australian Board of Jewish Deputies, the Argentina DAIA, and observers from the Jewish Agency.

BALTIMORE B'NAI B'RITH QUILTS INTERFAITH BODY; PROTESTS BIAS

BALTIMORE, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith lodges of Baltimore today announced that they have withdrawn from membership in the Baltimore Interfaith Committee, due to the fact that one of the sponsors of that committee, Boumi Temple Shrine, follows a policy of anti-Jewish discrimination. The announcement was made by Dr. Samuel Friedman, of the Presidents Council of Baltimore B'nai B'rith lodges.

The Interfaith Committee was organized over 14 years ago by the Knights of Columbus, B'nai B'rith, and Boumi Temple Shrine. Cooperating with the management of the Baltimore Orioles, the Committee inspired the annual Interfaith Baseball Game designed to promote better interfaith understanding among the citizens of the community. The reason for B'nai B'rith's withdrawal--voted by the executive committees of all Baltimore B'nai B'rith lodges--is the continued discriminatory membership policy of the Boumi Temple of Baltimore, a professedly non-sectarian organization, which nevertheless bars members of the Jewish faith.

In announcing the withdrawal, Dr. Friedman stated: "B'nai B'rith believes that this exclusionary policy of Baltimore's Boumi Temple, which is also regretted by many among Boumi Temple's membership, is unique in Shrinedom, and is inconsistent with the non-sectarian admissions policy of the Shrine nationally. We have repeatedly discussed and tried to resolve this matter with William O. Barnes, Illustrious Potentate of Boumi Temple, but his recent statements convince us that future discussions and efforts to correct these practices will prove unavailing. B'nai B'rith, therefore, cannot in good conscience continue its association as a member of the Interfaith Committee under these circumstances. To do so would be to mock the very purpose and spirit of the Committee's program as well as those of B'nai B'rith."

DR. SCHWARTZ RETURNS FROM HIGH LEVEL TALKS IN ISRAEL ON BOND DRIVE

NEW YORK, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, returned today from high level talks in Jerusalem with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and leading economic experts concerning Israel's development needs and plans for 1961. He also held conferences with Jewish leaders in Europe for the purpose of setting up a program of campaigning in Western European countries on behalf of State of Israel bonds in the new year.

National officers of the Israel Bond Organization and campaign chairmen of 50 major cities will meet at a weekend Top Leadership Conference this month in New York for the purpose of drawing up plans for the 1961 drive. Israel's principal development needs in the coming year will be outlined by Dr. Schwartz at the conference.

Discussing his talks in Israel, Dr. Schwartz pointed out that a great part of the country's economic expansion will have to be concentrated in new development areas south of Beersheba, and in increasing industrial production for export. Another major need, according to the Israel bond leader, will be the construction of housing for new immigrants and in newly established rural and industrial centers.

JUDGE JACOB SPIEGEL NAMED MEMBER OF SUPREME COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- Judge Jacob J. Spiegel, of the Boston Municipal Court, has been named by Governor Foster Furcolo to a seat on the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, the highest court in the State.

Under the Constitution of this State, the appointment must be ratified by the State Executive Council, which will consider the nomination this week. But it is considered certain that Judge Spiegel's elevation will be confirmed. Justice Spiegel would, then, become the first Jew ever to serve on the state's highest tribunal. Judge Spiegel, a native of this city, has been for years active in various Jewish and other communal affairs. He is a director of the Hebrew Free Loan Society.