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MAPAI'S NON-CONFIDENCE VOTE IN LAVON TO BE CONSIDERED BY HISTADRUT ON THURSDAY

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The central committee of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, decided at an emergency session today to convene the Histadrut's executive on Thursday to act on the vote of non-confidence in Pinhas Lavon as Histadrut secretary-general which was approved yesterday at a turbulent session of the central committee of the Mapai party.

The Mapai central committee, in voting to force Mr. Lavon's ouster, bowed to the wishes of David Ben-Gurion as one of the conditions he set for accepting the task of forming a new Government to replace the one he toppled last Tuesday by resigning. The vote was 159 for the motion, 96 against and five abstentions. Twenty persons eligible to vote did not attend.

The Mapai has a 55 percent majority on the Histadrut executive of 505 men and it was expected that unless some of the Mapai members join the minority parties, which are certain to reject the non-confidence motion, Mr. Lavon's ouster as secretary-general would be approved. The emergency meeting today of the Histadrut central committee was called after receipt of an urgent cable from the Mapam, one of the minority parties in the Histadrut, which demanded a vote of confidence in Mr. Lavon.

Mr. Lavon, who apparently had decided to force a vote on his ouster rather than to resign after the vote yesterday, reacted to the Mapai vote with the assertion that he considered the 40 percent vote against his ouster a "moral victory" both for the Mapai party and for himself. He said that despite the pressure exerted on Mapai central committee members, 86 "had the courage" to vote against the ouster. He added that not all of those who voted yesterday were eligible to vote.

Mapam and Achdut Avodah Indicate They Will Back Lavon in Histadrut

Two of the former left-wing partners in the former coalition, Achdut Avodah and Mapam, indicated they supported Mr. Lavon fully and would back him in the Histadrut. The Histadrut leader received flowers and cables of support last night after the vote.

The vote of the Mapai central committee yesterday touched off the first violence in the long dispute between Ben-Gurion and Lavon. Baton-swinging police charged a crowd of 1,000 demonstrators at the Ohel theater where the meeting was held. The demonstrators bore placards protesting against the meeting. Later police officials said nine persons were arrested and released on bail.

Neither Mr. Lavon nor Mr. Ben-Gurion attended the Mapai meeting at which a sharp debate took place on the whole issue. The two main speakers against the ouster proposal were Moshe Sharett, who had been Prime Minister when the mishap occurred, and Prof. Nathan Rottenstreich, dean of humanities at Hebrew University and the leading ideologist of the Mapai party.

Mr. Sharett argued strongly that Mr. Lavon should be allowed some mistakes in his long struggle to free himself of blame for the mishap and that Mr. Ben-Gurion had no right to decide who should represent the Mapai and the Histadrut.

Giora Josephthal, Labor Minister and Levi Eshkol, Finance Minister, spoke for the motion. They argued that Mr. Lavon's differences with Mapai leadership made it impracticable for him to be retained as Mapai representative in the Histadrut. Mr. Eshkol, whose switch from the middle-roaders to the anti-Lavon faction was decisive in the ouster decision, also charged that Mr. Lavon had allowed himself to become a weapon for the Mapai's foes.

Israel President Starts Consultations Today on Formation of Cabinet

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- President Izhak Ben-Zvi was scheduled to begin tomorrow party consultations for the formation of Israel's tenth Government which appeared likely today to develop into a lengthy and complicated series of negotiations. Mapai, as the largest party, will be the first to meet with the President. On Tuesday, the President will meet with leaders of the right-wing Herut and the Religious party, with the rest of the week set for meetings with leaders of the other parties.

The Herut and the General Zionists, it was reported, will urge the dissolution of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, and the holding of new elections. Only the religious groups among the parties in the coalition Mr. Ben-Gurion toppled last Tuesday by resigning as Prime Minister were considered certain to indicate readiness to serve with Mr. Ben-Gurion again. The others--the Mapam, Progressive party and the Achdut Avodah--were expected to tell Mr. Ben-Zvi that they did not see any possibility of rejoining a Ben-Gurion coalition.

U.J.A. LAUNCHES 1961 DRIVE; RAISES \$14,850,000; MEYERHOFF ELECTED GENERAL CHAIRMAN

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The nationwide 1961 United Jewish Appeal was officially launched today as 400 American Jewish leaders meeting here at the Americana Hotel contributed or reported gifts that totaled \$14,850,000.

The great outpouring of contributions came at a dramatic closing session of a three-day National Inaugural Conference which was marked by the resignation of Philip M. Klutznick as general chairman of the UJA and the unanimous election of Joseph Meyerhoff of Baltimore to the post.

Mr. Klutznick's resignation followed his appointment by President Kennedy, nine days ago, as a key member of the United States Mission to the United Nations to be this country's representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Mr. Meyerhoff, a nationally prominent communal leader and an outstanding figure in the home building field, becomes UJA's sixth general chairman in the organization's 22-year history, assuming what is considered to be the most important leadership post in American Jewish life.

Albert A. Levin of Cleveland, UJA's national chairman and chairman of the inaugural conference, hailed today's outpouring of gifts "as a sign of American Jewry's continued interest in aiding Israel's immigrants and as a heartfelt tribute by American Jewry to Philip M. Klutznick and Joseph Meyerhoff. The \$14,850,000 in starting gifts received today," Mr. Levin noted, "exceeds the amount contributed to start last year's campaign by more than two-and-a-half million dollars."

Today's response followed a strong plea by Major General Chaim Laskov, former Chief of Staff of the Israeli defense forces, that American Jews help "step up the process of absorbing some 320,000 still, unintegrated immigrants in Israel, in order to ensure the country's remarkable democratic gains." General Laskov declared: "The record shows that the establishment of Israel represents the one real achievement in nation building on the democratic front since the end of World War II."

Meyerhoff and Klutznick Address Closing Session of U.J.A. Parley

In accepting the United Jewish Appeal general chairmanship Mr. Meyerhoff told today's meeting: "I do so in the solemn realization that more than half a million lives literally depend on those who lead and serve in the UJA. But I am also aware that it has been the great good fortune of our generation to have the opportunity to end age old problems of Jewish suffering and misery. This is a challenge which I humbly accept secure in the knowledge that I will receive your full support."

The new UJA general chairman has been active in philanthropic and communal work on every level, from the local to the international, for more than three decades. In the world of business, meanwhile, he is nationally prominent in the fields of home building and real estate development, and as the past president of the National Association of Homebuilders of the United States.

He has been long identified with programs of aid to Jewish refugees overseas as a national chairman of the UJA and former chairman of its national campaign chairmen. He also has been a vigorous advocate in promoting Israel's economic stability through private enterprise. In this connection, he serves as president of the Palestine Economic Corporation.

Mr. Meyerhoff serves additionally as the vice-chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., as a member of the National Executive Committee of Israel Bonds and as a member of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare funds. In Baltimore, he is president of the Associated Jewish Charities and holds numerous posts in civic and Jewish bodies. He is chairman of the Maryland State Planning Commission.

"The task to which I have been called upon to undertake by the President and which I feel it a privilege to undertake," Mr. Klutznick told the conference, "seeks to promote a maximum of world cooperation in many of the very fields in which we are active in the United Jewish Appeal."

"I could not find it in my heart to reject any legitimate invitations of the President to serve our nation's legitimate hopes and ambitions. But in addition I welcome this special opportunity to serve in an area which I regard as an extension of the very interests that for years have occupied my energies and my best hopes."

Others who played prominent roles in the conference this weekend, included Samuel H. Daroff of Philadelphia, and William Rosenwald of New York, national chairman of the UJA; Melvyn Dubinsky of St. Louis, chairman of the UJA Campaign Cabinet, Jacob Sincoff of New York, UJA co-treasurer, and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the UJA.

(In New York, the 22nd annual meeting of the Council of Organizations of the United Jewish Appeal adopted unanimously today a resolution pledging accelerated efforts in support of the current UJA campaign to raise \$72,740,000 in 1961. The delegates, representing 700,000 members of the Council's 7,500 affiliated organizations, heard Dr. Aryeh Kubovy, director of the Yad Vashem, the Israel collection center for documentation of the Nazi destruction of Jewry, appeal for broad support of the campaign.)

CLAIMS CONFERENCE MEETS IN NEW YORK; GOLDMANN REPORTS ON GERMAN REPARATIONS TO JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Urgent appeals to the German and Austrian Governments for an early agreement on compensation measures for victims of Nazi persecution in and from Austria, were sounded here today at the opening of the annual meetings of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the two organizations, voiced his deep distress that Nazi victims from Austria, in the tens of thousands, have already waited over two decades for the enactment of legislation providing modest benefits in compensation for brutal persecutions at Nazi hands, and for the loss of their possessions and livelihoods.

"It is highest time for the two governments to complete their negotiations on the size of financial contributions going to an Austrian program for the benefit of Nazi victims," Dr. Goldmann declared. "The new program would come too late for many, even if it entered into effect tomorrow, since considerable numbers of aged refugees from Austria have gone to their graves in recent years without getting a single shilling in compensation."

The Claims Conference session was attended by over 40 Jewish leaders from North and South America, Europe, Australia and South Africa. They represented the 23 national and world-wide Jewish member organizations of the Claims Conference, and they will decide on the allocation of \$10,000,000 to be received this year.

Dr. Goldmann outlined a broad review of recent developments in the field of German indemnification and restitution. He expressed gratification that deliveries of goods, materials and services, under the terms of the Bonn-Israel reparations pact of 1952, to which the Conference is a party, were continuing to move at a smooth pace. All told, over \$589,285,000 in capital goods, materials and services were delivered to Israel from Germany since payments started on June 30, 1953.

Slow Payments by Germany to Individual Nazi Victims Emphasized

In his report, Dr. Goldmann pointed out that payments to individual Nazi victims by the German Government reached \$2,077,000,000 all told, by September 30, 1960. "But the record must be weighed against the fact that only one-half of the sums estimated to be due have been paid so far over the course of a decade, while the German Federal Indemnification Law calls for the completion of the program by the end of 1962," he said. He announced that in discussions just completed with top ranking German officials, the Conference had submitted specific proposals calling for further speed-ups in the tempo of adjudication and for more liberal interpretations of the Law.

"Among the gravest problems impeding the completion of the indemnification program are the claims for damage to health," Dr. Goldmann stated. "Over 218,000 claims in that category awaited adjudication on September 30, 1960. Cumbersome and long-drawn procedures have led to postponements, lasting for years in great numbers of cases. Nazi victims in the scores of thousands have suffered in body and mind for as long as two decades from the effects of imprisonment, mistreatment and torture, while their justifiable claims for compensation are subjected to prolonged delays by German indemnification offices."

Dr. Goldmann expressed the deepest disappointment that the German Government has failed to provide compensation for Nazi victims who were able to leave eastern Europe only after October 1, 1953. Refugees arriving after the Hungarian uprising are also in the same position. The 1953 date is the cut-off deadline for the technical eligibility of stateless Nazi victims to register claims under the Federal Indemnification Law. "The claims of those victims have the greatest possible merit, since they were imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps and suffered privations in the post-war years. Their moral claims for indemnification are every bit as strong as those of claimants who were in a position to file in time," Dr. Goldmann said.

Leavitt Reports on \$7,000,000 Aid to Rebuild Jewish Communities

A \$7,000,000 program for rebuilding Jewish communities ravaged at Nazi hands, "that will live on far beyond the day when the curtain falls on our activities," was described today by Mr. Moses A. Leavitt, treasurer of the Claims Conference. The program represents allocations granted for the construction, expansion, equipment and repair of about 400 homes for the aged, children's and youth homes, hospitals and clinics, Jewish schools and seminaries, kindergartens, summer camps, community and youth centers, religious institutions, and the like.

"In western and central Europe," Mr. Leavitt underscored, "scarcely a Jewish community under former Nazi occupation may now be found which cannot point to one capital project or more aided by Conference funds. In many Jewish communities, the tempo of organized activity has notably quickened under the impact of new buildings and facilities provided, and reconstruction with Conference aid is moving ahead on a scale unprecedented in Jewish life."

Mr. Leavitt pointed out that the rebuilding of the Jewish communities which suffered at Nazi hands ranked high among Conference objectives. The program included the provision of physical facilities for the care of Nazi victims and for closing in some degree the gaps inflicted by Nazi persecution on Jewish creative resources. In that context, Mr. Leavitt described the Conference program for scholarships and fellowships. He stated that 1,240 grants have been issued so far.

VICE PRESIDENT JOHNSON SAYS UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL WORK FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

NEW YORK, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his first public address since he was sworn into the second highest office of the land, tonight said that the Kennedy Administration "will work for peace in the Middle East as it works for progress in Africa, for social justice in Latin America, for freedom in Asia, for strength and accord in Europe, and for a climate of mutual trust with the Soviet Union." He expressed hope for a reduction of the "costly burdens of arms" in the Middle East and lauded Israel's peaceful development achievements.

The Vice President spoke at the 53rd annual dinner of Bnai Zion, a fraternal Zionist order, held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. More than 1,500 guests, each paying \$75 a plate, attended the dinner. The proceeds will go to the planting of a forest in Israel bearing the name of Mr. Johnson in recognition to his furtherance of American-Israel friendship. Vice President Johnson was also presented with a citation.

Declaring that "modern Israel is aware of the pursuits of peace," Mr. Johnson said: "Israel understands that development depends upon basic resources of human talent, and its institutions are invigorated by eager students, not coming from many lands." He praised Israel's "dedication, hard work, the nourishment of talent, and the extension of knowledge" as qualities that were "weapons of peace around the world." He lauded the role played by the Bnai Zion and the Jewish National Fund in Israel's success.

Ambassador Harman Lauds Cooperation of U.S. Jews with Israel

Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman, addressing the dinner, paid tribute to Vice President Johnson and the United States Government. "The Vice President's concern in the development of material resources and their dedication to human welfare was known throughout the world and it was appropriate that his name would be perpetuated in a growing forest in the Holy Land," he stated. Referring to the Jewish Community in the U.S. which he described as "one of the most encouraging and positive phenomena in modern Jewish history," Ambassador Harman said:

"I would take this opportunity of expressing the gratification of the Government and people of Israel at the fruitful cooperation that there has been between Israel and the Jewish communities of the United States in the past 13 years. There are and can be no political relations between us. We are citizens of Israel and you are citizens of the United States. We owe undivided loyalty to our country as you are characterized by undivided loyalty to yours.

"Our respective governments have cooperated closely in the international arena because they share a deeply rooted common faith in human and national freedom and in international order and cooperation. Between our citizens, however, who are predominantly Jewish, and the Jews of the United States of America the areas of cooperation have thus not been political. Nothing that is said on this subject could possibly be interpreted to mean that anyone has a political involvement in Israel except for citizens of Israel.

"Our respective citizens have cooperated primarily in bringing aid and dignity to Jewish refugees. Of 1,300,000 Jewish refugees who found permanent homes in lands of freedom since the end of World War II, 1,000,000 have been able to come to Israel. This has been a great achievement which is largely due to the cooperation between our two communities. There has been an equally fruitful cooperation in cultural and spiritual areas of mutual concern."

President Kennedy sent a message to the dinner in which he praised Bnai Zion and cited as the "finest example" of its work its "participation in the afforestation of the Holy Land." Speakers at the dinner also included Congressmen Abraham J. Multer and Emanuel Celler, Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Dr. Harris J. Levine, honorary president of the United Jewish National Fund of America, and Hyman F. Fliegel, president of Bnai Zion.

UNITED HIAS URGES REVISION OF PRESENT IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION LAWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The United States was urged today, in a unanimous resolution adopted at the 77th annual meeting of the United Hias Service, to revise present immigration and nationality laws "in keeping with the humanitarian and democratic traditions of our country." The delegates acted after former Senator Herbert H. Lehman voiced a request "to erase discrimination and bigotry from the laws and to eliminate discrimination against naturalized citizens."

Murray I. Gurfein, president of United Hias Service, said that mounting inquiries concerning Jewish refugees from Cuba in the U.S. prompted the Hias to give priority attention to their problems and to send a resettlement expert to Miami, Florida, to work with representatives of other faiths in the Miami Cuban Refugee Emergency Center. "Jews from Cuba are asking for our help in extending their temporary stay permits or for the adjustment of their status in the U.S. to that of permanent residents," he reported.

He further reported that, during 1960, United Hias Service's operations on rescue, migration and resettlement fronts all over the world resulted in aid to more than 12,000 Jewish men, women and children.

Samuel Bronfman, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, and Sydney Einfield, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, received awards of honor at the meeting. The awards, illuminated plaques, cited Mr. Bronfman and Mr. Einfield for their many years of leadership in the cause of the migrant.