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'LAVON AFFAIR' FLARES UP AGAIN; EVOKED BY DAYAN STATEMENT IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The "Lavon Affair," seemingly closed in 1961 when Pinhas Lavon, one-time Israel Defense Minister, was ousted from the top echelons of Israeli political life in a dispute about his alleged responsibility for a "security mishap" in 1954, flared up higher than ever today. Its revival was due to a statement on the subject made last night in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, by Minister of Agriculture Moshe Dayan, who was Israel's Chief of Staff, with the rank of general, when the "mishap" presumably took place.

Three opposition parties--the Liberals, Herut and the Communists--have filed motions of non-confidence in the Government, as a result of the Dayan statement. A third non-coalition party, Mapam, addressed an inquiry to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. Two members of the coalition Government--Yehudit Avodah and the National Religious Party--gave notice they would bring the matter up at the next Cabinet session Sunday.

One of Israel's leading newspapers, "Maariv," had reported that Mr. Dayan had made statements about the Lavon affair differing totally from the facts as known until now. Members of the opposition questioned him last night in the Knesset about these press reports, and also challenged him as to why he had withheld vital facts in his possession.

Mr. Dayan answered at length, but the Speaker of the House ordered his reply expunged from the record "for security reasons." Today, however, "Maariv" reported the Dayan version of the events surrounding the "security mishap"--an occurrence which was never publicly related in detail.

Dayan Reported Placing Guilt for 'Mishap' on 'Third Factor'

According to the newspaper report, Mr. Dayan had stated that the "mishap" which resulted in Mr. Lavon's ousting as Defense Minister had actually taken place long before the dates mentioned earlier, and that the orders leading to the "mishap" had not been issued either by Lavon or by a senior officer, but by "a third factor" who was not identified by Mr. Dayan. According to "Maariv," Mr. Dayan claimed that he was "no longer in the army" when that action had been initiated.

Asked why he had not reported what he knew to the Government or to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Mr. Dayan was said to have replied that, although what he knew was, at the time, "only an assumption," he had made his data known to the then Minister of Justice, Pinhas Rosen. Mr. Dayan said "dates had been confused, and when I said neither Lavon nor a senior officer gave the order for the actions, I meant these orders were issued before the dates attributed to Lavon or to the senior officer."

Mr. Dayan was reported as saying he had tried to bring his information to various committees discussing the entire issue but was not heard and has never been invited to give his testimony to those bodies "to this day." According to "Maariv," he had revealed his views for the first time at a meeting of the top leaders of the Mapai Party, leaders last Friday, stating that he considered Lavon not responsible for the "mishap."

While the non-confidence motions are pending, and slated for debate in the Knesset next Monday, former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion requested today that he be furnished details of the fresh parliamentary debate on the Lavon issue. Prior to next Monday's Knesset debate, the secretariat of the Mapai Party is expected to discuss the issue at a meeting scheduled for Friday.

HIGH ISRAELI OFFICIAL SENTENCED TO PRISON TERM FOR ACCEPTING BRIBES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Yehuda Spiegel, former Deputy Director of the Ministry of Health, was sentenced today in district court to one year in prison for bribery in a construction scandal.

Spiegel, a one-time Hungarian Jewish leader, and a leader of the National Religious party, was accused with three other men of demanding and receiving bribes in connection with the award of a contract for the erection of a \$19,000,000 Government

hospital near Tel Aviv. A second defendant, A. Yaroni, a contractor, who was also found guilty last Monday, received a similar sentence. He was head of the Ministry committee that awarded the contract. The two others were acquitted.

Spiegel was released after sentencing on bail of 20,000 pounds (\$6,600) for 20 days pending an appeal of the sentence. The Health Ministry had been in charge of planning and building the hospital.

ALGERIAN JEWS SEEK ARRANGEMENT FOR GETTING MATZOTH FROM FRANCE

PARIS, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A delegation of Algerian Jews, the first to come to France since Algeria won its independence, arrived in Paris today to arrange for the shipment of matzoth and other ritual supplies for the forthcoming Passover celebration.

The five-man delegation, representing the 5,000 Jews still living in the former French territory -- a small fraction of the pre-independence community of 130,000 -- came to attend a meeting of the Jewish Central Consistory. They also met with representatives of other Jewish organizations to whom they reported on conditions in Algeria.

They said that the Algerian Jews suffer seriously from economic hardship, but that they are not the target of any anti-Semitic or anti-Jewish discrimination by Algerian authorities. Individually, many of the Algerian Jews face serious economic problems, some actually living in desperate straits. They are free, however, to organize themselves communally, to conduct religious services and to provide Jewish schools for their children.

They are concentrated mainly in Algiers and Oran, but there is also a substantial number in Colomb-Bechar, a Sahara desert city.

TRIAL OF GESTAPO OFFICER FOR KILLING 400 MINSK JEWS OPENS IN KIEL

BCNN, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Hans Graaife, a wartime officer of Hitler's SS, went on trial at Kiel today, in another of the West German proceedings against former Nazi war criminals, charged with killing 400 Jews in Minsk, capital of Byelorussia, during World War II.

The first witness against Graaife was Karl Strohhammer, who testified he had witnessed a "ceremonial execution" of Jews, staged for the benefit of Heinrich Himmler, chief of Hitler's Gestapo. The killings, he said, were done with carbines and machineguns. He told the court he was unable to remember by this time whether Graaife personally took part in the murders, but declared he "could swear" that the defendant had issued the order for the executions.

Meanwhile, one of five former Nazis being tried in Brunswick in the wartime slaughter of 5,200 Jews in Pinsk, Poland, in 1941, sought at his trial today to pin the blame for the murders on a former SS general who was shot as a traitor on Hitler's orders.

Walter Bornscheuer, a former SS cavalryman, asserted that the order for the killings was conveyed by SS Gen. Otto-Herman Fegelein, brother-in-law of Hitler's mistress, Eva Braun. Bornscheuer insisted that Fegelein gave instructions that the order, issued by Himmler, be carried out in August 1941, despite protests by some officers.

Nazi Claims Catholic Church Helped Him to Escape to Argentina

LIMBURG, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Hans Hefelmann, charged with complicity in the murder of persons in Germany deemed by the Nazi regime unfit to live, testified yesterday in his trial that Catholic church officials in Austria helped him to escape to Argentina.

Dr. Hefelmann is the only one of the original four defendants in the euthanasia trial to appear. Dr. Werner Heyde, the chief defendant, hanged himself in his jail cell last week, 24 hours after Dr. Friedrich Tiffman, another defendant, jumped or fell to his death from a Cologne office building. A third defendant, Bernard Böhne, jumped bail and fled to Argentina last September.

Hefelmann, 56, testified that he left Germany for Austria in 1948. He said that, in Vienna, the Papal Nuncio advised him to go to Argentina and gave him his blessing. Later, he said, he was helped by Caritas, a Roman Catholic Welfare Organization, to get a visa for Argentina. "I maintained contacts with the German Jews in Buenos Aires," he asserted.

(In Rome, a Vatican prelate who helped postwar European refugees, said last night that Hefelmann probably used a false name in getting aid from Caritas. The Vatican had no official comment on the former Nazi's testimony.)

Hefelmann also testified that he did not want to take part in the euthanasia killings but he was told "I would be treated like a soldier who refused an order" if he declined to participate.

REPUBLICANS SEEK CONGRESSIONAL MOVE PERMITTING PRAYER IN SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A proposal for a constitutional change to permit prayer and Bible reading in the public schools of the Nation had the support today of the Republican Policy Committee of the House of Representatives.

Rep. John W. Brynes, Wisconsin Republican, said the policy committee had endorsed the proposal, which would negate the Supreme Court ruling last June holding that such sectarian activities in schools violated the constitutional ban on establishment of a religion.

Rep. Frank J. Hecker, New York Republican, said that 141 Representatives had signed his petition to pry the proposed amendment out of the House Judiciary Committee, headed by Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, for a vote on the floor. A majority of the House membership, or 218 names, is required to make such a petition effective.

Rep. Celler, expressing surprise at the GOP policy committee action, disclosed that committee hearings were planned on some 170 proposals to amend the Constitution to offset or modify the Supreme Court ruling. Rep. Celler said the hearings would be held after staff members completed their study of the issues.

(The Cornwall-Lebanon joint school board, in Pennsylvania, yesterday dropped an earlier policy of permissive Bible reading in its schools, and voted to make daily Bible reading mandatory in all classrooms. Under the prior policy, the decision on such exercises was left to the individual teacher.)

U.S. RABBIS DETERMINED TO CLASH WITH ISRAELI RABBINATE ON DIVORCES

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Rabbi Theodore Friedman, president of the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly of America, said today his organization was determined to force the issue of the refusal of the Israeli rabbinate to recognize Jewish religious divorces granted by American Conservative rabbis.

The Conservative rabbinical group called a press conference to explain why it had engaged Gideon Hausner, former Israeli Attorney General, to represent it in Israel on the issue. Rabbi Friedman said that Mr. Hausner had been engaged "to explore ways" in which the problem could be handled under Israel law. He added that, in engaging Mr. Hausner, the Rabbinical Assembly had not committed itself to legal action, but that "this is a possibility."

The event which brought about the action was the application last September of a Jewish woman, who had been divorced by a Conservative rabbi in Boston, for a license to marry. The rabbinical registrar in Tel Aviv rejected the application on grounds that the divorce was invalid. The woman wrote to the Boston rabbi, who referred the matter to the rabbinical group. Rabbi Friedman then wrote to Chief Rabbi Isar Untermann of Tel Aviv on the refusal. Rabbi Untermann replied that the divorce document had only one rabbinical signature, as against the three required in Israel.

Rabbi Friedman wrote again to Rabbi Untermann, pointing out that a single rabbinical signature was the Jewish legal procedure in all countries except Israel where, he said, it was a custom and not Jewish law. He also pointed out that the Boston rabbi had acted in accordance with Jewish Law under the Conservative Beth Din. He added that there had been no reply to his second letter.

Rabbi Wolfe Keltman, executive vice-president, said that the man in the case had received a Jewish divorce from an Orthodox rabbi in the United States and that his document bore only one signature but it had been accepted by the Israeli rabbinate.

STAFFS IN SIX NEW YORK JEWISH FEDERATION AGENCIES GO ON STRIKE

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Professional social workers and maintenance employees at six Jewish social agencies in this city went out on strike this afternoon in a dispute which, according to the union concerned, involves demands for "dignified living wages."

Leaders of the Community and Social Agency Employees Union, Local 1707AFL-CIO, said that, tomorrow morning, the strike will be joined by women supplying home-maker services and by "cottage parents" who supervise children living in such facilities at Pleasantville and Hawthorn, N. Y.

The agencies affected--all constituents of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York--are the Altro Health and Rehabilitation Services, Jewish Board of Guardians, Jewish Child Care Association of New York, Jewish Community Services of Long Island, Jewish Family Service and the Louise Wise Services.

A joint committee of the agencies stated that the walk-out involves between 1,200 and 1,400 workers, affecting 12,000 families and 4,000 children served by the organizations. Leaders of the union said the strike involves between 700 and 800 workers. The contract between the union and the agencies expired last month, and negotiations have been stated.

BALTIMORE WOMAN LEAVES \$1,800,000 FOR TWO JEWISH INSTITUTIONS

BALTIMORE, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Two constituent agencies of the Associated Jewish Charities here--Sinai Hospital and the Levidale Hebrew Home and Infirmary--have been bequeathed gifts that will total at least \$1,800,000, according to an announcement today by Harry Greenstein, executive director of the AJC.

The bequests, constituting the largest gifts ever received by each of the agencies, were left in the will of the late Mrs. Nelson Gutman, who died last September. Mr. Greenstein said that the executors of the will estimate that the hospital will receive at least \$1,350,000, while the Home will get a minimum of \$450,000 from Mrs. Gutman's bequests. The gifts, he said, represent a "continuing interest" in both agencies on behalf of the donor and her late husband, Nelson Gutman.

Sinai Hospital is a \$22,000,000 medical center here, serving more than 100,000 patients annually on a nonsectarian basis. It has 476 beds and 93 bassinets. The Levidale Home, in which the Gutman family had long evinced interest through sizable contributions, is a 275-bed hospital for chronic diseases, where about 60 per cent of the patients contribute nothing for maintenance except for receipts from social security or welfare pensions.

PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION GETS \$100,000 GIFT FOR ITS BUILDING FUND

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- George Friedland, an associate chairman of the Federation of Jewish Agencies Building Fund here, has made an undesignated contribution of \$100,000 to the Fund, it was announced today by Kevy K. Kaiserman, chairman of the special, \$15,360,000 drive.

The Fund drive covers some 30 projects for new construction for Federation agencies, and many of the givers are earmarking their contributions to those agencies that interest them most. However, Mr. Friedland said his gift is deliberately without designation, in order to aid other projects which "may be just as important but not so fortunate as to engage the attention of some of our generous contributors."

AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR ISRAEL TENDERS RECEPTION FOR 'HABIMAH' PLAYERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A reception in honor of the Habimah--the Israel National Theater--was given last night by the American Jewish League for Israel, at the New Yorker Hotel.

Samuel Daroff, the president of the American Jewish League, introduced the cast of the Habimah to more than 100 prominent leaders and representatives of cultural and literary groups. He welcomed the Habimah as a cultural bridge between Israel and America and stressed the need of helping the group in the modernization of its own theater in Tel Aviv and the building of the new educational experimental theater alongside of it.

"The Habimah," Mr. Daroff said, "is the best living demonstration of our Hebrew renaissance. For over 40 years it has been a great cultural stimulant for our people. It now behooves us all to help it grow and prosper." Jacob M. Alkow extended the greetings of the League in Hebrew and introduced Aaron Meskin, the dean of the Hebrew actors in Israel. Mr. Meskin called for a close partnership between Israel and American Jewry in the creative work that the Habimah represents.

U.A.H.C. IN CHICAGO DENIES ADMISSION OF NEW REFORM CONGREGATION

CHICAGO, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A committee of the Chicago Federation of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, embracing Reform temples, has refused to approve membership for the Tree Towns Congregation, a new group serving 48 families in a west suburban area of this city, according to The Sentinel, the Chicago Jewish weekly.

Rabbi Dan Isaacs, spiritual leader of the Tree Towns Congregation, was quoted as saying that the rabbi of nearby Oak Park Temple had objected to the formation of the new group. However, Rabbi Leonard J. Mervis, spiritual leader of Oak Park Temple, has refused to comment. The denial of membership is reportedly the first ever recorded here in synagogue affairs among the Reform congregations.

YUGOSLAVIA TO RESTORE JEWISH CEMETERIES DESTROYED BY NAZIS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The Yugoslav embassy today informed a visiting delegation of rabbis that the Belgrade Government had agreed to restore Jewish cemeteries in that country which had been destroyed by the Nazis during the Second World War. The delegation, representing the World Center of European Rabbis, was requested by the embassy to supply a list of such cemeteries.

The rabbinical organization last year called upon the embassies of the various East European countries with a similar request and was informed at that time that the appeal would be passed on to the governments concerned.