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NEWS RELEASE

from the Desk of SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

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America's democratic leadership is "undergoing a grave test" in the eyes of the world, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey warned in Minneapolis last night.

"While international Communism seizes the initiative and moves forward with diplomatic and military victories, the Administration in Washington stands immobilized -- the victim of indecision and the distracting performance of a Congressional circus," he declared.

Senator Humphrey described the McCarthy-Army hearings as "a spectacle unworthy of the high purposes and great responsibility of the Congress, rolling on with all the fanfare of a Hollywood production".

"It represents the culmination of the abuse of irresponsible investigating tactics," Senator Humphrey said. "Not only are individuals being hurt, but the reputation of the government itself is in the balance. Distracted and dazzled by this political extravaganza, the American people -- yes, and even the Congress itself -- are failing to face up to the really great issues that beset us at home and abroad"

Senator Humphrey said news dispatches from Geneva "tell us a tragic story of American defeat and retreat".

"Korean peace talks are stalled. The situation in Indo-China, at best, may be a limited Communist victory. The Administration seems to wander without plan or policy. Conflicting statements come from high Administration officials, confusing the people at home and our friends abroad. In the meantime, the true facts are not brought to the public."

Senator Humphrey outlined his concern over the "diverting" effect of the McCarthy-Army feud on serious international troubles during an address at a Minneapolis dinner marking the Sixth Anniversary of the State of Israel's independence.

Israel's progress in six short years of independence has "inspired free men everywhere, and rendered a vital service to the Free World", Senator Humphrey said.

"Their high-minded ideals have offered hope to mankind in these grim days, hope that brotherhood and freedom are more than idle phrases. Here we have the living contradiction of the Communist propaganda which seeks to make men despair.

"Our task is to keep burning the torch of freedom for ourselves, and to keep lighting it for other people of the world.

"We must make clear a vision so often forgotten in recent months: that the purpose of our foreign policy is not only to defeat Communism, but also to strengthen freedom and perpetuate liberty. We must again make clear for all to see that the American people do not seek war -- we seek to create the conditions making for peace. The example of Israel's freedom and independence is a beacon light of hope, in an area of darkness. The deeds of democratic living in the State of Israel represent freedom's answer to tyranny and despotism".



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