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SENATOR HUMPHREY CALLS ACTIVITY IN MIDDLE EAST TEST OF SOVIET "NEW DIPLOMACY"

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) last night cited the current Soviet activity in the Middle East, in particular the signing of arms agreements with Egypt and Syria, as test of the Soviet's so-called "new diplomacy".

Speaking at Hunter College before delegates to the 13th Biennial Convention of Women's American ORT, Senator Humphrey termed the Middle East a "political geiger counter" which may reveal the real, hidden intentions of the Soviet Union. "If the Soviet Union insists on rearming the avowed enemies of the State of Israel, the United States should have no other alternative than to conclude a mutual security pact with Israel," the Minnesota Senator warned. "But it is unthinkable to condone the rearmament of hostile states in the Middle East. Every available resource and every bit of strength the United States can exert should be used immediately to check an armaments race involving Israel and the Arab States."

In his speech entitled "A New Democracy in an Old World", Senator Humphrey had high praise for the Israeli leadership, pointing out that they would be reliable, resourceful military allies, as they have been invaluable allies in the desperate world conflict of ideals and values.

"Under the stresses of the past seven years, the government of Israel might easily have fallen back on the time-worn pattern of authoritarianism," ~~he pointed out~~. "Indeed, the people of Israel have faced problems which might well have broken the spirit of any people, and brought their government and their society to a state of confusion. The brute facts of climate and the simple scarcity of water were severe enough handicaps. But the social and economic crisis precipitated by the inflow of 750,000 refugees from persecution into Israel in three years was one which staggers the imagination. And then the open hostility from the surrounding sea of Arab states, with violence and threats of violence of an almost daily occurrence, was to impose an incredible emotional and economic burden on the young republic."

"There has been provocation which might have driven lesser men, with narrower vision and inferior courage to resort to government by force and decree. The Israeli leadership might well have been panicked into devoting its skills and intelligence wholly to the problem of survival, with a suspension of democratic procedures in the name of security and defense."

"This has not happened. Israel remains today a thoroughly democratic

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state. And this is a great tribute to the Jewish people, and a triumph of centuries of devotion to their ideals of human dignity and justice and personal liberty."

Let us deeply hope that the Israeli leaders do not now fall back on policies of desperation. Let us urge them and help them to continue their wise, far-sighted policy of economic development within the framework of personal liberty."

"The very existence of this democratic republic challenges the old order in the Middle East far more decisively than an Israeli victory through arms. The Arab Middle East today considers Israel an enemy, but I do not believe that this will always be so. The Arab world is hopefully stirring. The Arabs, too, need and want the blessings of democracy and peace and the good things which come with them. They cannot help but see, if they will, but look at Israel dispassionately, an example of what each Arab state may also achieve."

"We must not permit the democracy that is Israel to be overwhelmed, either by outside force or inner desperation," Senator Humphrey concluded. "Israel's achievement in transforming the desert and imposing order on the physical chaos of Palestine is an economic and social miracle. But if she is able, through steadfast example, to continue as a beacon of democracy in the Middle East, then she will indeed have performed a miracle. The historic distinction of showing the way to stability and progress and prosperity for the entire Middle East lies within the grasp of Israel. We must help her achieve that distinction."



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