

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
140 Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.
National 8-3120, Ext. 881

For Release: Wednesday A.M.
April 25, 1956

U. S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AT STAKE IN MIDDLE EAST, SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

What happens to Israel happens to freedom, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared last night in an address before a United Jewish Appeal banquet in Washington.

"America and the entire free world are inextricably involved in the fate of Israel.

"We must frankly come to recognize that whatever happens to this struggling country, happens to the forces of freedom everywhere.

"If this outpost of democracy suffers, the free world suffers with her."

As a result, Senator Humphrey declared, "far more than the fate of one nation, as vital as that is, is involved in the present crisis in the Middle East."

"The fate of ^{freedom} our entire foreign policy is at stake, for Israel represents and exemplifies America's foreign policy objectives. ✓

"Our goals for a free and peaceful world include development of responsible governments, the correction of ancient social and economic inequalities, the determined use of modern skills and technical skills for economic progress, and the opening of new horizons for the human personality.

"When we look at the Middle East today, where but in Israel do we find these goals being realized in daily performance?"

"Israel is an exemplification of liberal democracy, in an area needing a beacon of democracy.

"We have a vital stake in keeping that beacon glowing.

"The United States was the first nation to recognize Israel's independence. We sponsored her admission to the United Nations. We have made available grants and loans to Israel to promote her economic development and military security, because it is such a symbol of all that our foreign policy should stand for; national self-determination, economic development, human dignity, and social welfare.

*Israel feels deserted
Needs arms
and pact*

"Yet today Israel feels deserted. She needs arms in self-defense. She needs a security pact. In our own interest, and in the interest of freedom everywhere, we should give her both -- and I have said so for months. We have done more for many other countries, including Formosa, where there have been no free elections and where the international situation is every bit as dangerous and critical. ✓

"Despite the President's recent but belated warning against aggression in the Middle East, the basic policy of the State Department in that area remains one of calculated avoidance of responsibility.

*Truce
cease fire*

"Months of confusion, timidity, and indecision have now been succeeded by outright hypocrisy. There is no other way to describe the action of the President and the Secretary of State in deliberately tabling the long-standing Israeli request for defensive arms, while publicly acquiescing in the efforts of our closest NATO allies to do what we are unwilling to do. Almost every move the State Department makes, and almost every statement it releases concerning the Arab-Israeli crisis, is designed to divest itself of as much direct responsibility for the outcome of events as is humanly possible."

Senator Humphrey warned that the cease fire arranged by the UN's Secretary General "affords us a welcome relief in the tension of the last few weeks, and

M O R E

gives us a new opportunity -- but it should not lull us into a false assumption that the worst is now over, for the worst may easily yet come to pass.

"Our policies, or the lack of them, will either ease or intensify the current crisis in the Middle East," Senator Humphrey said.

"The fate of freedom may well be bound up in the fate of Israel.

"It would be a major blow to the spirit and purposes of our democracy if we stood idly by temporizing and equivocating while this example of what we are trying to achieve for all the world must struggle on alone, bravely but proudly, under a sword of Damocles in the form of a constant threat of annihilation from her neighbors," Senator Humphrey declared.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org