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FROM: The Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
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Mac College
AT Paul*

ARMS BAN, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH URGED FOR EASING MIDDLE
EAST CRISIS

The United States urgently needs to chart some specific objectives in the Middle East "rather than just flounder from crisis to crisis", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared last night in an address at Macalester College inaugurating an area Study Program of the Middle East in the four colleges of St. Paul -- Macalester, Hamline, St. Catherine's, and St. Thomas.

The situation in the Middle East still poses "the greatest threat of any outbreak of actual war" in the world today, Senator Humphrey warned.

"Here, for the second time in a year, Soviet plotting and mischief-making has fanned into flame long smouldering tension and animosities.

"The situation is so acute, the danger so immediate, that a broad program of international action is imperative. Yet much of what needs to be done should be done because it is right for the Middle East, regardless of the pressing Soviet threat," Senator Humphrey declared.

Cautioning that the United States "cannot be an international busy-body trying to solve everything alone", Senator Humphrey said that our role should be toward "using our leadership to initiate action through the United Nations--action with specific objectives for the good of the area, rather than just protective reactions after each individual crisis."

"The Middle East needs time to calm its passions and develop its resources for the benefit of its people. But the urgent need to preserve the peace, the pressure for change, for social advance, for an end of poverty and ignorance, will not wait for

that region to mobilize and exploit its resources on its own, "Senator Humphrey declared. "No country in the Middle East -- certainly no Arab Country, has the experience or the skills to stave off communism by pushing development on a scale and at a pace commensurate with the need. The area could be lost to the communists without a single overt act of aggression, without the Eisenhower Doctrine ever being invoked, unless we place at its disposal the wealth of our experience and mobilize the funds required to step up the process of human rehabilitation and social progress.

"We should move to strengthen the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East to use on the Turko-Syrian border if necessary. We should initiate proposals in the United Nations to place the UN police force on a continuing basis for permanent availability for service elsewhere as the United Nations may direct.

"We should initiate proposals to end the arms race in the Middle East by an effective embargo against shipments from any outside source other than under United Nations auspices. To this end, we should seek the establishment by the United Nations General Assembly of a Special Commission on Arms Traffic, which Commission would be charged with responsibility for proposing early recommendations on regulating all flow of non-United Nations material into that region.

"We should recognize the critical importance of re-establishing the principle of free navigation on international waterways, specifically including free, unfettered access to the use of the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba for the shipping of all nations. To this end, we should be taking the leadership in the United Nations where already existing resolutions in this matter remain to be implemented and reinforced.

"We should propose the establishment of a United Nations Good Offices Commission, whose purpose would be to reduce tensions in the Middle East by promoting direct negotiations between the current antagonists, and mediating among

them if direct negotiations prove to be impossible. The Commission should be specifically charged with unremitting exploration of the possibility of negotiations on the central problems of determination of boundaries, resettlement of Arab refugees from Israel, and of Jewish refugees from Egypt and Syria, and the conclusion of treaties of peace.

"We should help break the stalemates of inertia and blockade by promoting dynamic projects to help raise living standards, strengthen economies, and encourage orderly social progress in the Middle East. We should reaffirm our interest and support for long-term regional economic development programs sufficiently broad to encompass multi-national river development projects for the Jordan, Nile, and Tigris-Euphrates river valley system.

"Toward this end, we should take the initiative in the United Nations in proposing a Middle East Development Authority, as an administering agency for the mutual pooling of capital and technical aid in the region, the Board of Directors of which would contain representatives of all Middle Eastern States as well as of all other states furnishing capital aid and technical assistance.

"A Middle East Development Agency could demonstrate to the Arab leaders that they have more to gain by internal and cooperative economic development than from military adventures. Providing constructive channels for Arab energies could eventually lead to institutional and social changes, such as the growth of a middle class with its beneficial and stabilizing influence.

"It would provide a means of channeling Arab oil revenue into productive uses which would benefit the entire area, thus utilizing part of the presently existing hard money resources of the Middle East for the financing of regional development.

"Creation of a Middle East Development Agency would emphasize that it is in the interests of all concerned to move from intra-regional feuding to intra-regional cooperation for development. Most important, perhaps, such an Agency would encourage a regional approach to the problems of Middle East development. Isolated projects here and there, financed by bilateral aid from the United States, obviously offer no real answer to the needs of the region. Industrial development hinges upon the opening of mutual markets, a freer exchange of goods, among the several countries of the region as well as trade with the rest of the world.

"It will take courage and daring to adopt such an approach in the Middle East. Without these qualities, however, we will continue to muddle, moralize, and probably miss the opportunity to be of constructive use in the Middle East. With these qualities, we can at least hope that our courage will be rewarded," Senator Humphrey declared.



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