

EXCERPTS -- MILWAUKEE JEWISH CENTER

1. JERUSALEM

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE CELEBRATE PASSOVER,
IT IS TRADITIONAL TO END THE SEDER WITH THE SAYING,
"NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM." BUT THIS YEAR, AND EVERY YEAR
SINCE 1967, JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN IS OPEN TO US -- IT IS
OPEN, IT IS FREE, AND IT IS REUNITED.

ANYONE FAINTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE LAST 3 MILLENIUM OF
JEWISH HISTORY CANNOT FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE DEEP
SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM.

JERUSALEM AND THE JEW ARE SO DEEPLY INTERTWINED IN
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SIGNIFICANCE TO CHRISTIAN AND JEW ALIKE WERE DESECRATED.

WE COMPOUND THESE WRONGS TODAY BY IGNORING THE
REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM AND THE HUMANE ADMINISTRATION
OF THAT CITY UNDER ISRAELI RULE.

LET US WELCOME A UNITED JERUSALEM. THAT HOLY CITY
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THE PSALMIST SPEAKS OF "JERUSALEM THE REBUILT, AS A
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2. ISRAEL'S DEFENSE

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AND ISRAEL -- WE MUST BACK OUR WORDS WITH ACTION, WHAT WE
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ANY SIGN OF WEAKNESS OR AMBIVALENCE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ONLY ADDS TO THE PRESENT INSTABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. A STOP AND GO POLICY ON THE DELIVERY OF ARMS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE CREATES UNCERTAINTY AND ANXIETY IN BOTH ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES.

ISRAEL HAS BEEN SPENDING 30 PERCENT OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT ON DEFENSE. THESE EXPENDITURES ARE INCREASING. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ISRAEL'S SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT, A FIGURE THAT IS APPROACHING \$1.5 BILLION.

ISRAEL IS A PROUD COUNTRY, IT CARRIES ITS BURDEN WITH COURAGE, BUT IT IS NOT JUST FACING THE ARAB ARMIES, IT IS CONFRONTING THE MILITARY MIGHT OF THE SOVIET UNION,

AT STAKE IS THE PROSPECT OF RENEWED WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE STAKES ARE TOO GREAT FOR EQUIVOCATION OR CONFUSION ON OUR PART.

3. JEWISH REFUGEES -- RUSSIA AND ARAB COUNTRIES

IT IS CUSTOMARY AT THE PASSOVER SEDER TO WELCOME INTO OUR CELEBRATIONS JEWS WHO ARE FAR FROM HOME, AND TODAY WE MUST REMEMBER THOSE JEWS WHO ARE FAR FROM HOME -- WHO ARE KEPT CAPTIVE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

WE MUST SAY TO THE SOVIET UNION LOUDLY AND CLEARLY:

"IF YOU ARE GENUINE IN YOUR DESIRE FOR PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE THOUSANDS OF JEWS IN RUSSIA WHO ARE IMPRISONED IN YOUR SOCIETY BY NOT BEING ABLE TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL."

OUR GOVERNMENT MUST EXERT OUR DIPLOMATIC AND MORAL RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF THE COURAGEOUS RUSSIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT, AT GREAT SACRIFICE, REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ITS IDENTITY.

THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROVIDES THAT ALL PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO MIGRATE TO THE COUNTRIES OF THEIR CHOICE. THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN LIBERTY. A NATION WHICH DENIES THAT RIGHT IS IMPRISONING ITS CITIZENS.

WE MUST ASSURE THAT EVERY STEP BE TAKEN TO INSURE THAT THOSE SOVIET JEWS DESIROUS OF LEAVING RUSSIA BE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE AT ONCE TO THE NATION OF THEIR CHOICE.

IN A FEW MONTHS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE VISITING THE SOVIET UNION. HE WILL BE IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY.

WE MUST TAKE VIGOROUS STEPS TO HELP ASSURE THE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS VITALITY OF THIS HARRASSED AND PERSECUTED COMMUNITY. THE VENERABLE CHIEF RABBI OF MOSCOW DIED 4 MONTHS AGO. NO ADEQUATE REPLACEMENT IS AVAILABLE, AS THE RUSSIANS HAVE LONG FORBIDDEN THE TEACHING OF THE JEWISH RELIGION. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SOVIET JEWISH YOUTH

LONG TO KNOW THEIR HERITAGE BUT QUALIFIED TEACHERS, BOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ARE RARELY IF EVER AVAILABLE.

I URGE THE PRESIDENT TO ASSURE THAT ANY FURTHER CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM ARRIVED AT WITH THE SOVIET UNION INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR ETHNIC CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITHIN EACH OF THE SEVERAL MINORITY GROUPS WITH SIZEABLE POPULATION IN BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

IF THE SOVIET UNION IS SINCERE ABOUT THE DETENTE AND IF IT SINCERELY WISHES TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL, IT SHOULD CONSIDER SUCH AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM IF IT IS VIGOROUSLY ADVOCATED BY A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST REMEMBER THE CAPTIVE JEWS
IN ARAB LANDS -- JEWS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED IN HOSTILE
COUNTRIES FOR CENTURIES. THE STORY OF THESE JEWS IS A
QUIET ONE -- WE DO NOT HEAR TOO MUCH ABOUT IT THESE DAYS,
BUT WE MUST BRING THEIR STORY TO PUBLIC ATTENTION.

IN THIS REGARD, I CAN ANNOUNCE TO YOU, WITH GREAT
PRIDE, THAT I AM THE HONORARY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEE TO RESCUE SYRIAN JEWRY. THESE JEWS DESERVE OUR
SUPPORT -- AND THEY NEED IT DESPERATELY.

4. KOSHER SLAUGHTER

IT IS NOT JUST ABROAD THAT THE RIGHTS OF JEWS ARE
ENDANGERED. WE MUST FACE THE FACT THAT HERE IN AMERICA --

THIS VERY DAY -- THE RIGHTS OF OBSERVANT JEWS ARE
THREATENED.

LEGISLATION HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS -- A NEW
MEAT SLAUGHTER BILL -- THAT VERY SIMPLY WILL ENDANGER THE
CONTINUED PROVISION OF KOSHER FOOD.

THIS BILL PROVIDES THAT AN ANIMAL RITUALLY SLAUGHTERED
CAN BE SOLD ONLY IF THE ENTIRE ANIMAL IS "HANDLED,
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BUT, AS WE KNOW, ONLY PART OF THE CARCASS IS USED FOR
KOSHER FOOD. IF THE REST OF THE ANIMAL -- THE MOST
VALUABLE COMMERCIAL PART -- IS CLASSIFIED WITH THE KOSHER
CUTS -- THEN IT WILL BE WASTED AND NOT USED.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? IT MEANS THAT THE PRICE OF KOSHER FOOD -- ALREADY EXORBITANTLY HIGH -- WILL BE DOUBLED AT THE VERY LEAST, BUT THAT'S THE LEAST OF THE PROBLEM.

I SAY TO YOU THAT THIS IS RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION THROUGH THE BACK DOOR -- IT IS RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION THROUGH ECONOMIC MEANS.

THERE ARE HEAVY PENALTIES IN THIS BILL FOR ANY VIOLATIONS -- A FINE OF \$10,000, A YEAR IN JAIL, OR BOTH. I ASK YOU -- ARE WE GOING TO PUT RABBIS AND THEIR CONGREGATIONS IN JAIL?

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MEMORANDUM

MARCH 30, 1972

TO: Senator Humphrey
FROM: Mark Epstein
SUBJECT: Address to Jewish Community Center
Milwaukee - Sunday, April 2

We worked out these excerpts with David Luchins. You have material on: Jerusalem, Israel's defense, Jewish refugees, and kosher slaughter.

The material on kosher slaughter is in reference to a new meat slaughter bill that, if passed, will have the effect of making the cost of kosher food prohibitively expensive.

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