

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

RECEIPT OF  
HEBREW UNIVERSITY'S SCOPUS AWARD

MIAMI, FLORIDA  
MARCH 21, 1973

<sup>Louis</sup>  
Mr. Wolfson

Arthur Golding  
Honorary Chairman  
Amn Friends of Hebrew U.

indeed a special honor

IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO RECEIVE THE SCOPUS

AWARD.

(Bill Benton - UNESCO)  
Educator -

I ACCEPT THIS HONOR KNOWING THAT IT IS BESTOWED

BY ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING:

HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

Hubert H. Humphrey Scholarship  
Program for Disadvantaged  
Students

FROM ITS SITE ON MT. SCOPUS COMMANDING A VIEW OF

THE HILLS OF JERUSALEM, THE VALLEY OF THE DEAD SEA AND

THE MOUNTAINS OF MOAB, THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY HAS

ALWAYS BEEN A SYMBOL OF THE DYNAMISM OF A YOUNG AND

VIBRANT SOCIETY COMBINED WITH A TRADITION OF LEARNING

AND SCHOLARSHIP THAT GOES BACK OVER SEVERAL MILLENIA!

Torah  
Realms  
Prophets

[ my visits to Israel &  
the U.S. Abe Harman  
(Zena)

AS FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY, WE CONSIDER IT TO BE A LIVING SYMBOL OF GREAT JEWISH ACADEMIC ACHIEVE-

MENTS. AS ONE OF ITS GOVERNING BOARD RECENTLY SAID:

"THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY IS NOT JUST THE

HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM. IT IS THE

UNIVERSITY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. IT BELONGS

TO ALL OF THE JEWS ALL OVER THE WORLD."

*Indeed, might*

*I add - it is a gift to resource - for the entire world!*

BUT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY MUST ALSO BE REGARDED

AS AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT DEDICATED TO MOLDING ISRAEL'S

FUTURE.

ALL OF US KNOW WHAT THE STRIVING FOR EDUCATIONAL

EXCELLENCE HAS MEANT TO THE CREATION OF MODERN ISRAEL.

*L* ~~It is not~~ AN OVERSTATEMENT ~~to~~ SAY THAT

*But* EDUCATION HAS BEEN THE KEY TO THE SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL,

*Some of Learning - Jewish People through*  
~~HISTORY WILL SURELY TAKE NOTE OF THIS FACT.~~ *The Ages!*

*Talogue*  
*L* THE WEAPONS WHICH GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF

ISRAEL--THE JETS, THE SHIPS, THE STRONG ARMY--THEY

ARE, INDEED, IMPORTANT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE STATE,

*I am so proud that america has been*  
~~AND I MUST PRAISE PRESIDENT NIXON FOR BEING~~ SO WILLING

TO MEET ISRAEL'S DEFENSE NEEDS, *I commend President*  
*Nixon + the Congress.*

*L* BUT EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE NATION-BUILDING

MECHANISM OF THIS TWENTY-FIVE YEAR OLD DEMOCRACY.

*L* EDUCATION HAS BEEN THE INSTRUMENT WHICH HAS MADE

WHOLE A SOCIETY OF DIVERSE PEOPLES.

*Educa-Scholarships - Exchange*

EDUCATION HAS BEEN THE KEY BY WHICH AN AGRICULTURAL  
ECONOMY WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND  
INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETY <sup>making possible</sup> ~~OF~~ PROSPERITY AND  
SECURITY TO ITS PEOPLE. *This too has been the*  
*story of our own country.*  
GREAT STRIDES IN EDUCATION HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE

ISRAEL'S BIRTH IN 1948. NO OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD--  
EVEN OUR OWN--HAS MADE SUCH OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN EDUCATION OVER SO SHORT A PERIOD OF TIME.!

THE POPULATION OF ISRAEL HAS GROWN FROM 650,000  
TO MORE THAN 3 MILLION TODAY. TWENTY FOUR YEARS AGO  
THERE WERE ONLY 130,000 STUDENTS IN ISRAELI ELEMENTARY  
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. TODAY, THERE ARE OVER THREE  
QUARTERS OF A MILLION.

↳ THE DRAMATIC INCREASES IN POPULATION PRESENT ONLY  
ONE CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. ↳ THE  
OTHER FAR MORE SERIOUS CHALLENGE HAS BEEN THE TASK OF  
CLOSING THE EDUCATIONAL GAP BETWEEN HER IMMIGRANTS FROM  
EUROPE AND THOSE FROM ARAB, NORTH AFRICAN OR ASIAN  
BACKGROUNDS. *and yet,* JEWISH IMMIGRANTS FROM AFRICA AND ASIA  
ACCOUNT FOR 50 PERCENT OF ISRAEL'S TOTAL POPULATION.

↳ ISRAEL HAS BEEN FACED WITH THE TASK OF INTEGRATING  
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS FROM 90 DIFFERENT  
COUNTRIES, SPEAKING OVER A HUNDRED DIFFERENT LANGUAGES,  
INTO ONE, HOMOGENEOUS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

and HEBREW UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF  
EFFORTS TO CLOSE THE GREAT EDUCATIONAL GAP WHICH EXISTS  
AMONG ISRAELIS OF DIFFERING ORIGIN. THE UNIVERSITY'S  
WORK PROVIDES ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD WITH AN  
EXAMPLE OF HOW A NATION DEALS WITH EDUCATIONALLY DIS-  
ADVANTAGED YOUTH--HOW IT PROVIDES THEM WITH EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY.

THE WORK OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY'S JOHN DEWEY SCHOOL  
AND ITS ~~CENTER~~ <sup>“</sup> CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION OF  
THE DISADVANTAGED IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF ISRAEL'S  
COMMITMENT TO BOTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR ITS  
CITIZENS WHO NEED SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

HEBREW UNIVERSITY HAS PIONEERED IN THE CONCEPT OF PRE-ACADEMIC EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.

THIS TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE PROVIDES YOUNG ISRAELIS WITH COMPENSATORY TRAINING WHICH ENABLES THEM FIRST TO ENTER COLLEGE AND THEN SURVIVE ACADEMICALLY AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS AND OTHER PROGRAMS HAS EXCEEDED

ALL EXPECTATIONS

*It offers a splendid - tested and proven - equipment that could + should be applied to our own system.*

~~THE RESULTS OF A NATION'S SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON~~

~~CREATIVE WAYS TO PROVIDE ITS PEOPLE WITH LEARNING~~ *skills to*

~~ENRICH THEIR LIVES CAN BE SEEN IN AN IMPORTANT~~

*Today* STATISTIC: ONE THIRD OF ISRAEL'S TOTAL POPULATION

IS NOW INVOLVED IN SOME FORM OF ORGANIZED EDUCATIONAL

INSTRUCTION.

*a remarkable achievement!*



~~AT THIS STAGE IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT~~, MANY OF THE  
*Developing*  
~~COUNTRIES~~ ARE NOT RICH IN INDUSTRY OR  
 NATURAL RESOURCES. ~~BY AND LARGE~~ THEY HAVE ONE AND ONLY  
 ONE GREAT RESOURCE--THEIR PEOPLE.

THIS IS NOT THE POTENTIAL CONTAINED IN GREAT CAP-  
 ITAL INVESTMENTS OR PRODUCTION AND TRADE, BUT THE  
 POTENTIAL OF HUMAN ASPIRATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT,  
 AND IN TAPPING THIS POTENTIAL ~~IN FULFILLING THE MANY~~  
~~GOALS OF SOCIETY~~ THE BASIC REQUIREMENT IS EDUCATION,  
 AND ~~LOTS OF IT~~.

*of the poor and the*  
 L YET TODAY IN THE WORLD <sup>A</sup> MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE  
 BEING DENIED EVEN ~~THE OPPORTUNITY~~ *the chance* OF BEING ABLE

TO READ AND WRITE: <sup>In fact</sup> MORE THAN 100 MILLION ~~PEOPLE~~ *people*

*are victims of illiteracy*  
 IN THE WORLD ~~THERE ARE~~ TODAY THAN 10 YEARS AGO.

~~FOR ANY COUNTRY, PROVIDING ITS PEOPLE WITH THE  
BASIC TOOLS OF LEARNING IS THE FIRST STEP--THE THREE  
R'S OF READING, 'RITING, AND 'RITHMETIC--THE SAME  
BASIC TOOLS THAT PREPARED OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES FOR  
THE TRIUMPHS OF EDUCATION, PROSPERITY, AND CIVILIZATION  
THAT WE NOW ENJOY.~~

↳ NEXT TO THE SCOURGE OF DISEASE, ILLITERACY IS  
MAN'S WORST ENEMY.

↳ IT PREVENTS HIM FROM EXPANDING HIS HORIZONS.  
↳ IT PREVENTS HIM FROM UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD  
BEYOND HIS FARM, VILLAGE OR TOWN.

↳ IT PREVENTS HIM FROM ESCAPING POVERTY.

L IT PREVENTS HIM FROM TRUE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION.

L AND IT PREVENTS HIM FROM PASSING ON THE MEANING

OF HIS LIFE, HIS TRADITION, CULTURE AND RELIGION IN ANY  
OTHER WAY THAN BY WORD OF MOUTH,

L DESPITE GREAT ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE,  
SPACE TRAVEL, PERSONAL COMFORT, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION--  
DESPITE THESE ACHIEVEMENTS-- UNTIL EVERY MAN AND WOMAN ON  
EARTH CAN READ AND WRITE, WE CANNOT PROCLAIM THE DAWN OF  
A NEW, MODERN ERA OF LIFE.

L MAN HAS BEEN STRUGGLING TO OVERCOME ILLITERACY  
FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

L TODAY, WE CAN OVERCOME THIS BARRIER--WE CAN ERASE  
ILLITERACY.

WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO ACHIEVE THIS TASK.

WE HAVE THE RADIOS, THE TELEVISIONS, THE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES, THE COMPUTERS,

I PROPOSE TONIGHT THAT AS PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL THE UNITED STATES LEAD THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD IN A GLOBAL EFFORT TO WIPE OUT ILLITERACY BY THE YEAR 2000.

I CAN NOT THINK OF A MORE WORTHWHILE WAY TO CELEBRATE 200 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE THAN BY HELPING OTHERS OVERCOME ILLITERACY.

THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL ARE  
 AVAILABLE IF THE ~~POPULATION~~<sup>industrialized</sup> NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE WILLING  
 TO JOIN TOGETHER IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

~~I BELIEVE~~<sup>take the lead and</sup> THE UNITED STATES SHOULD INTRODUCE A  
 RESOLUTION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
 CALLING FOR THE DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO JOIN  
 TOGETHER--TO POOL THEIR RESOURCES--TO WIPE OUT

ILLITERACY OVER THE NEXT 27 YEARS. UNESCO

could administer  
~~THE UNITED NATIONS COULD ADMINISTER THIS EFFORT~~

~~WITH THE AID OF THE UNITED STATES.~~

THE BATTLE AGAINST ILLITERACY SHOULD KNOW NO  
POLITICAL BORDERS. EVERY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD--COM-  
MUNIST, SOCIALIST, CAPITALIST, DEMOCRACY OR DICTATORSHIP--  
SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS WORLDWIDE EFFORT.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR A MAN TO HAVE ACCESS TO  
INFORMATION THROUGH THE TRANSISTOR RADIOS THAT HAVE  
SPREAD INTO THE FARTHEST CORNERS OF THE WORLD. HE  
MUST ALSO BE ABLE TO USE WHAT HE HEARS--TO WRITE IT  
DOWN, TO READ IT TO OTHERS, TO APPLY WHAT HE LEARNS  
TO HIS DAILY LIFE.

THIS IS THE FIRST GOAL OF EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT. YET IT CLEARLY IS NOT ENOUGH. NO SOCIETY CAN RISE ANY FASTER THAN ITS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS, AND TO DO SO, THEY MUST HAVE THE LEARNING--THE EDUCATION--TO BUILD NATIONS OUT OF COMMUNITIES, AND TO MAKE USE OF THE BENEFITS OF HUMAN PROGRESS ELSEWHERE.

YET COUNTRIES ONLY PART WAY ON THE ROAD TO DEVELOPMENT CANNOT CHOOSE TO PROVIDE EACH OF ITS PEOPLE WITH ALL THE EDUCATION HE CAN TAKE.

THESE COUNTRIES MUST MAKE CHOICES:

WHO IS TO BE EDUCATED?

WHAT ARE THEY TO LEARN?

AND HOW IS IT TO BE PAID FOR?

LEADERS IN MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AGREE THAT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO LITERACY. BUT SHOULD EVERYONE BE TRAINED TO GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION? IF THIS WERE POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE A WORTHY GOAL. FOR NOW, AT LEAST, THERE MUST BE WAYS OF DECIDING WHICH FEW PEOPLE WILL BE EDUCATED TO THE LIMITS OF THEIR ABILITIES, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUTURE LEADERSHIP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY. YET THE REST, TOO, SHOULD HAVE SOME STAKE IN EDUCATION.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO HELP EACH INDIVIDUAL DEVELOP THOSE SKILLS THAT WILL BE OF BEST USE TO HIMSELF, HIS FAMILY, HIS COMMUNITY, AND FINALLY HIS NATION.

↳ THIS MEANS TRAINING FARMERS TO MAKE BETTER USE OF  
THEIR LAND, AS MUCH AS IT MEANS TRAINING ENGINEERS,

↳ IT MEANS HELPING PEOPLE BECOME MERCHANTS AND SHOP-  
KEEPERS AS MUCH AS TRAINING MEN TO MANAGE FACTORIES,

↳ IT MEANS IMPARTING BASIC LESSONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH,  
AS MUCH AS SENDING STUDENTS TO COLLEGE TO BECOME DOCTORS.

↳ AND IT MEANS TRAINING PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO TEACH  
THEIR OWN CHILDREN, AS MUCH AS PRODUCING TEACHERS FOR  
UNIVERSITIES.

↳ AS WE HAVE FOUND IN OUR COUNTRIES, EDUCATION MUST  
HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY AS A WHOLE IN ORDER TO  
MEET THE NEEDS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL.

L IT DOESN'T MEAN TRAINING PEOPLE FOR JOBS THAT DON'T  
EXIST AND CAN'T BE CREATED.

L IT DOESN'T MEAN EDUCATING BOYS AND GIRLS ON THE  
FARM TO GO LIVE IN THE CITY, IF THE CITY OFFERS NOTHING  
BUT UNEMPLOYMENT, HUNGER, AND MISERY.

L IT DOES MEAN HELPING EACH INDIVIDUAL TO MAKE THE  
BEST USE OF HIS GOD-GIVEN TALENTS, BOTH FOR HIMSELF  
AND FOR THOSE AROUND HIM.

*But* IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ~~AND~~ FACE THE PROBLEM  
OF PAYING FOR EDUCATION OUT OF SCARCE RESOURCES. *They have*

*limited resources must* ALSO BE USED TO IMPROVE FARMS, IMPROVE HEALTH, BUILD

ROADS TO GET PRODUCE TO MARKET, SUPPLY WATER, BEGIN

BUILDING FACTORIES, AND THE THOUSAND OTHER THINGS THAT

HELP COUNTRIES DEVELOP.

YET I BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION IS SO BASIC THAT IT  
CANNOT BE SACRIFICED, IF THE FUTURE IS TO BUILD UPON  
THE GAINS OF THE PAST,

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EDUCATION RESTS FIRST AND FORE-  
MOST WITH EACH DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

BUT THERE IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR US IN  
THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER RICH COUNTRIES TO PLAY.  
WE NEED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TEACHING SKILLS--AS WE HAVE  
DONE THROUGH THE PEACE CORPS AND OTHER EFFORTS. AND  
WE NEED TO HELP MAKE AVAILABLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO EDUCATE THEIR PEOPLE, AS  
WELL AS TO DEVELOP IN OTHER WAYS.

*EB*

WE MUST DO THIS BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT--BECAUSE IT IS  
OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AS PART OF THE ~~SAME~~ HUMAN FAMILY.

AND WE MUST ALSO DO IT BECAUSE OF THE GROWING  
INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS--BECAUSE THE WORLD OF THE  
FUTURE WILL BE A CONGENIAL PLACE FOR THOSE OF US WHO  
LIVE IN THE RICH COUNTRIES ONLY IF WE PAY FAR GREATER  
ATTENTION THAN EVER BEFORE TO THE NEEDS OF THE BILLIONS  
OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS TO BE BORN  
POOR.

-17-

L IF WE RESPOND TO THE GREAT CHALLENGES OF EDUCATION  
AROUND THE WORLD--THE GREAT CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT--

WE WILL FIND THAT ~~OUR OWN LIVES--THE WORLD WE LIVE~~

~~IN--WILL BE FAR BETTER THAN IF WE DO NOTHING, AND~~

~~IGNORE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.~~

*We must share our  
 Technology - our know-how - our Teachers*

THE POSSIBILITIES FOR GREAT HUMAN ADVANCE ARE

~~is~~ *unlimited.*

WE HAVE ONLY TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR US TO HELP

MAKE RESOURCES AVAILABLE ~~TO THEM~~ TO JOIN WITH OTHER

PEOPLES IN THEIR SEARCH FOR BETTER LIVES.

*We ~~can~~ have in the past and  
 must in the future share our  
 human resources - our  
 Teachers - our Technicians - our  
 Scientists - ~~we~~ we must share  
 our know-how - ~~the~~*

*Thomas  
Carlyle*

LET US RESOLVE HERE AND NOW TO COMMIT OURSELVES  
TO BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS OF IGNORANCE AND  
PREJUDICE THAT SEPARATE US FROM ONE ANOTHER. ONLY  
EDUCATION CAN ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

THE CHARGE IS LAID BEFORE US BY THOMAS CARLYLE,  
IN THESE WELL REMEMBERED WORDS:

THAT SHOULD ONE MAN DIE IGNORANT  
WHO HAD THE CAPACITY FOR KNOWLEDGE,  
THIS I CALL A TRAGEDY.



# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)