

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL DINNER

Elizabeth, New Jersey

April 29, 1975

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you today.

I have a special fondness for the UJA.

Its work has been nation building and the extension of humanitarian assistance to newly arrived immigrants.

Its work has led to the creation of a flourishing democratic state in an area of the world where it is difficult for the tree of democracy to take root.

Its work has meant freedom for an afflicted people.

Yes, the UJA's work has led to the fulfillment of an age-old dream for the Jewish people -- Israel reborn.

I am honored to have had a small role in the history of Israel -- a people consistently persecuted, but always persistent in the affirmation of human potential.

I am proud because there is a message in thousands of years of struggle and survival of the Jewish people as symbolized in the struggle of the state of Israel.

There is a message in the martyrdom and nameless victims of this struggle.

And the message is that while people may be oppressed, the urge for freedom will persist undiminished.

This is the story of Israel.

Israel is freedom reborn -- rekindled.

This is the story of Jewish suffering and triumph.

Through the pages of Jewish history, the resolve of the Jewish people has been clear, as it is today.

In America, the Soviet Union, in Israel or anywhere else in the world, each generation of Jews has left its mark in the struggle for their own freedom as well as for the freedom of others.

Twenty-seven hundred years ago at a dark hour of Jewish history, when the Assyrians had conquered the ten northern tribes and were about to lay siege to Jerusalem, the prophet Amos confronted his people with this divine promise:

"I will turn back the captivity of my people. And they shall rebuild the wasted cities and inhabit them. And they shall plant vineyards and drink the sweet wine, and they shall make gardens and eat the fruit, and I will plant them upon their lands, and they shall no more be cast out of the land which I had given, saith the Lord God."

The promise of Amos has come true.

Twenty-seven years ago Israel was born -- I should say that Israel was reborn.

For me, the birth of Israel as a modern state meant that the international community, and the United States as a leader of that community, had finally recognized their solemn obligation to provide the Jewish people a safe haven after the holocaust of war-torn Europe. And this haven was in a part of the world where Judaism had begun and had flourished.

President Harry Truman's support of nationhood for Israel and recognition of the state of Israel meant that this country was welcoming into the international community a full fledged democracy.

It is not very often that the American people have had an instrumental role in the creation of a viable, democratic state.

And through the years, this democracy has flourished against insurmountable odds.

Yes, Israel has been attacked on four occasions by hostile neighbors.

It has been forced to devote an inordinate amount of its limited wealth to its self defense.

And it recently has been isolated diplomatically by a majority of the world's nations as a result of Arab economic pressure.

Despite the unceasing hostility of its neighbors, this small nation has survived because of the courage and tenacity of its people and the friendship of America.

Mere dollars from America have not kept Israel alive.

It has taken more than money to make a desert bloom and a nation an agricultural producer.

It has taken more than money to build a viable economy which takes care of all of its citizens with decency and dignity.

And it has taken more than money to build a country capable of receiving the thousands who every year flee oppression in Eastern Europe. It has taken more than money for Israel to defend itself against overwhelming numbers.

Yes, there is a lesson for America in the enduring struggle of that small Jewish democracy.

It is a lesson that says a people and a nation are made strong not by mere foreign assistance or military weapons.

They become strong because they believe in themselves -- they believe in their God -- and they believe in the fundamental rightness of their existence.

I am reminded of the words from the Twentieth Psalm which speaks so well of this spirit. It says: "Some may trust in chariots, and others in horses, but for us, we will rely upon the spirit of the Lord our God."

And the great prophet Zachariah expressed a similar wisdom when he said: "Not with strength and not with armed might, but with my spirit will you prevail, saith the Lord God."

Two weeks ago I was in New York City to speak to over 100,000 Jews and Christians who had gathered to bear witness to the struggle of Soviet Jewry for a life of dignity and freedom.

I mention this event because it has relevance to our dedication this evening.

The drama and suffering of Soviet Jewry is the drama and suffering of Jewish history.

It is the drama of faith and hope. It is the drama of a brave people endeavoring to keep alive the flame of liberty.

Americans have a great stake in this struggle because we are the land of the immigrants and the children of immigrants.

It is in this spirit that we must not abandon these people in their quest for freedom.

And it is in this spirit that we must insure that the Jews of the Soviet Union are able to go to a safe and secure Israel.

The question before this great nation of ours today is: Will the sunset that brings in the next Sabbath symbolize the sunset of the democracy of Israel?

My answer is "No."

The answer our nation must give the world is "Never."

There is much talk in Washington about reappraising America's policy in the Middle East. There is talk of putting pressure on Israel and forcing it to accept a territorial solution which might endanger its security.

I want to assure you that the Congress is not about to participate in or endorse a policy reappraisal which means that the United States will lessen its support for Israel.

I've told this to Secretary Kissinger.

I have told it to President Ford, and I will tell it to him again.

And I will certainly state my position from the floor of the United States Senate.

Secretary Kissinger's latest mission to the Middle East did not result in the settlement he expected. But this setback does not mean that our nation should abandon its step-by-step approach to securing a lasting peace.

It should mean instead that we renew our efforts at negotiation and explore ways to achieve a settlement.

A peace conference in Geneva does not appear likely to enable the parties to reach a comprehensive settlement.

We must keep alive the step-by-step approach begun by the Secretary of State.

But in order to do this, the Administration must put a damper on the rumors of a policy shift. Increasing Israel's anxiety and insecurity will not help it to grapple with the tough choices in the weeks and months ahead.

I was greatly disappointed that President Ford did not reaffirm our nation's longstanding support for Israel in his recent foreign policy address to Congress.

The President and Secretary of State must reaffirm our commitment to the security of Israel.

The people of Israel need to know that the United States will not desert them and allow them to stand alone.

The people of Israel need to know that America will not be bullied or pressured by economic blackmail from any nation.

The people of Israel need to know that their security can never be the subject of any negotiation.

At a time of fragile peace, the cause of peace in the Middle East can only be strengthened if we remain steadfast in our commitment to a friend isolated from much of the rest of the world.

This is the least we can do for a friend, an ally, for a nation of people dedicated to democratic ideals and humanitarian beliefs.

I would like to conclude with a story from the Talmud which is relevant to our celebration this evening.

Nineteen hundred years ago the land of Palestine was occupied by the Roman legions and was afflicted with a severe drought. The city of Jerusalem was almost out of water. The Roman occupiers had plenty of water in their own reservoirs.

But Jewish pilgrims were about to come to the city to celebrate the harvest holidays, and there was no water for them to drink.

The leader of the Jewish community -- a man named Ben Gurion -- went to the Roman Governor to try to borrow water for the pilgrims. The Romans refused the request and offered a bargain instead.

They would give Ben Gurion 12 reservoirs of water for his pilgrims if he would promise to replenish the water in nine months or pay the Romans 1200 bars of silver. Having little choice, the Jews agreed to this deal. The pilgrims came and there was water for them.

But the drought continued for weeks and months. Finally, at the end of nine months, the Roman reservoirs were bone dry.

On the last day of this nine month period, the Roman governor sent a message to Ben Gurion. He said, "The time is up. There is no water. I want the money."

Ben Gurion replied that the sun had not set, that he still had time.

Several hours later, the Roman governor made the same demand of Ben Gurion. As the sun began to set, the Roman governor felt confident that he had vanquished the Jews, and

that they would have to pay him all their money. He went to his Roman baths to celebrate.

Ben Gurion went to the temple and stood before the altar of his heritage.

He cried out to his God: "Master of the universe, you know that I did not enter into this agreement for profit or my glory, but for the greater glory so that your children could have water."

And as Ben Gurion prayed, it began to rain as it had not rained for decades. The reservoirs of Jerusalem were filled and began to overflow.

The Roman governor was astonished. He left his bathhouse and saw Ben Gurion on the rain-swept streets. The Roman said, "I admit that the Almighty has created a miracle on your behalf. But it is too late. The sun has now set and you owe me the money. Your miracle has come too late."

At this point Ben Gurion turned toward Heaven and cried out: "Master of the universe, let all see once and for all, that there is justice in this world."

At this point, the rain clouds blew away and the sun shone through the clouds, creating a magnificent sunset.

This ancient Talmudic story is the story of Israel reborn.

After the slaughter of six million Jews and imprisonment of the Soviet Jewish community, many persons inside and outside government councils of the nations of the world seem to be saying that the sun has set for the state of Israel, that it is too late.

Israel, it is suggested, is a miracle, but too late.

But those of us who are friends of Israel know that there is justice and that the sun has not set for the Jewish people. Ben Gurion never lost the faith of his fathers. He knew that there was hope even at the darkest hours.

And I say to you this evening, that with faith, with hope, with courage, the nation of Israel will flourish and be secure.

# # # # #

File Elizabeth  
N.Y.

Manny Rockoff -

Congressman Mat Rinaldo (12<sup>th</sup> Dist  
Union County)  
1963 as Senator (2 Terms)  
1963 - as Freeholder  
1972 - Congress (2 Term)

OUTLINE OF REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Roger Clotter UNITED JEWISH APPEAL DINNER

ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 29, 1975

Seymour M. Lifer (Honoree) + Wife Hloca

Joseph Wilf - President Jewish Council  
(with Paul Auer)

Elton Kerness (Exec Director)

USA  
INF  
Bonds  
Hadaassah  
Hebrew U  
Westman  
Institute

Been Israel 5 times

Nation Building

L THE WORK OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL IS NATION BUILDING. ITS

EFFORTS HAVE MEANT THE CREATION OF A FLOURISHING HAVEN FOR A  
PEOPLE ESCAPING PERSECUTION.

27th Anniv

L THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

FOR ISRAEL.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RECOGNIZE WHAT ISRAEL MEANS TO AMERICA

-- ~~what~~ ISRAEL MEANS TO PEOPLE WHO LOVE FREEDOM AND RESPECT HUMAN

DIGNITY.

28th

AS IT BEGINS ITS 28TH YEAR, ISRAEL FACES SEVERE PROBLEMS:

-- DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION

U.N. - UNESCO

-- HOSTILE NEIGHBORS

4 wars

-- THE CONTINUING OBLIGATION TO HELP THE JEWS OF THE

SOVIET UNION.

Israel - Vietnam (Differences) our #10 -  
Ho Chi Minh  
-2-

✓ THERE IS MUCH TALK TODAY IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES AND IN THE  
PRESS ABOUT AMERICAN OBLIGATIONS. ✓ I DO NOT TAKE THE WORD  
"OBLIGATION" LIGHTLY. TO ME, IT IS A BINDING COMMITMENT. AND  
*Strong Israel*  
MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, THE UNITED STATES HAS A SOLEMN COMMIT-  
MENT AND OBLIGATION TO A STRONG AND SECURE ISRAEL IN A PEACEFUL  
MIDDLE EAST. THE TWO ARE NOT INCONSISTENT AS SOME WOULD HAVE US  
BELIEVE. ✓ IN FACT, A WEAK ISRAEL MEANS THAT ITS NEIGHBORS MAY BE  
WILLING TO UNDERMINE THE PEACE OF THE REGION.

*Reappraisal*  
WHAT DOES THIS "REAPPRAISAL" OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST MEAN? I AM NOT SURE. BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHAT IT  
CANNOT MEAN.

✓ REAPPRAISAL CANNOT MEAN ANY LESSENING OF AMERICAN SUPPORT  
FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

→ Palestinian Issue but not Profits Ingredients for Peace  
(1) non Belligerency -  
(2) Guarantees  
(3) Secure + Defensible Borders -

↳ REAPPRAISAL CANNOT MEAN THAT WE WILL ENTER INTO ANY  
AGREEMENT OR NEGOTIATION WHICH WILL ENDANGER THE BASIC SECURITY  
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

↳ REAPPRAISAL CANNOT MEAN THAT IN OUR SEARCH FOR PEACE WE  
FORGET THAT A ~~lasting~~ lasting PEACE CANNOT BE HAD WITHOUT THE RECOGNITION  
OF ISRAEL AS A SOVEREIGN NATION BY ITS NEIGHBORS

↳ WE MUST KEEP ALIVE THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH BEGUN BY  
SECRETARY KISSINGER. HIS LACK OF SUCCESS ON THE SECOND ROUND  
DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR EFFORTS AT MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATION SHOULD  
COME TO AN END.

↳ I DON'T BELIEVE THAT INCREASING ISRAEL'S ALREADY GROWING  
INSECURITY IS GOING TO MAKE THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION ANY EASIER.

(Pressure on Israel)

L ISRAEL NEEDS TO KNOW THAT THIS NATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS IT, IF IT

IS GOING TO MAKE A CONCESSION FOR PEACE. L THE EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS

MUST KNOW OF OUR RESOLVE IF THEY ARE TO TAKE MEANINGFUL STEPS

TOWARD PEACE. OUR POLICY SHOULD BE ONE OF ASSURANCE -- NOT

INCREASING AN ALLY'S INSECURITY BY REAPPRAISALS.

L I AM MAKING SURE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THIS

*Congress* REAPPRAISAL. I HAVE SPOKEN TO BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY

OF STATE ABOUT THIS CRITICAL ISSUE.

L AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY MUST REMAIN DEDICATED TO THE

SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, ISRAEL IS A SMALL, BUT GREAT

DEMOCRACY.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL DINNER

ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 29, 1975

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY.

I HAVE A SPECIAL FONDNESS FOR THE UJA.

ITS WORK HAS BEEN NATION BUILDING AND THE EXTENSION OF  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEWLY ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS.

ITS WORK HAS LED TO THE CREATION OF A FLOURISHING  
DEMOCRATIC STATE IN AN AREA OF THE WORLD WHERE IT IS DIFFICULT  
FOR THE TREE OF DEMOCRACY TO TAKE ROOT.

ITS WORK HAS MEANT FREEDOM FOR AN AFFLICTED PEOPLE.

YES, THE UJA'S WORK HAS LED TO THE FULFILLMENT OF AN AGE-  
OLD DREAM FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE -- ISRAEL REBORN.

I AM HONORED TO HAVE HAD A SMALL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF  
ISRAEL -- A PEOPLE CONSISTENTLY PERSECUTED, BUT ALWAYS PERSISTENT  
IN THE AFFIRMATION OF HUMAN POTENTIAL.

I AM PROUD BECAUSE THERE IS A MESSAGE IN THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF STRUGGLE AND SURVIVAL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS SYMBOLIZED IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

THERE IS A MESSAGE IN THE MARTYRDOM AND NAMELESS VICTIMS OF THIS STRUGGLE.

AND THE MESSAGE IS THAT WHILE PEOPLE MAY BE OPPRESSED, THE URGE FOR FREEDOM WILL PERSIST UNDIMINISHED.

THIS IS THE STORY OF ISRAEL.

ISRAEL IS FREEDOM REBORN -- REKINDLED.

THIS IS THE STORY OF JEWISH SUFFERING AND TRIUMPH.

THROUGH THE PAGES OF JEWISH HISTORY, THE RESOLVE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAS BEEN CLEAR, AS IT IS TODAY.

IN AMERICA, THE SOVIET UNION, IN ISRAEL OF ANYWHERE ELSE  
IN THE WORLD, EACH GENERATION OF JEWS HAS LEFT ITS MARK IN THE  
STRUGGLE FOR THEIR OWN FREEDOM AS WELL AS FOR THE FREEDOM OF  
OTHERS.

TWENTY-SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO AT A DARK HOUR OF JEWISH  
HISTORY, WHEN THE ASSYRIANS HAD CONQUERED THE TEN NORTHERN  
TRIBES AND WERE ABOUT TO LAY SEIGE TO JERUSALEM, THE PROPHET  
AMOS CONFRONTED HIS PEOPLE WITH THIS DIVINE PROMISE:

"I WILL TURN BACK THE CAPTIVITY OF MY PEOPLE,  
AND THEY SHALL REBUILD THE WASTED CITIES AND INHABIT  
THEM, AND THEY SHALL PLANT VINEYARDS AND DRINK THE  
SWEET WINE, AND THEY SHALL MAKE GARDENS AND EAT THE  
FRUIT, AND I WILL PLANT THEM UPON THEIR LANDS, AND  
THEY SHALL NO MORE BE CAST OUT OF THE LAND WHICH I  
HAD GIVEN, SAITH THE LORD GOD."

THE PROMISE OF AMOS HAS COME TRUE,  
TWENTY-S  
TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO ISRAEL WAS BORN -- I SHOULD SAY  
THAT ISRAEL WAS REBORN.

FOR ME, THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL AS A MODERN STATE MEANT THAT  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND THE UNITED STATES AS A  
LEADER OF THAT COMMUNITY, HAD FINALLY RECOGNIZED THEIR  
SOLEMN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE THE JEWISH PEOPLE A SAFE HAVEN  
AFTER THE HOLOCAUST OF WAR-TORN EUROPE. AND THIS HAVEN WAS  
IN A PART OF THE WORLD WHERE JUDAISM HAD BEGUN AND HAD  
FLOURISHED.

PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN'S SUPPORT OF NATIONHOOD FOR ISRAEL  
AND RECOGNITION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL MEANT THAT THIS  
COUNTRY WAS WELCOMING INTO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY  
A FULL FLEDGED DEMOCRACY.

IT IS NOT VERY OFTEN THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD AN INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN THE CREATION OF A VIABLE, DEMOCRATIC STATE.

AND THROUGH THE YEARS, THIS DEMOCRACY HAS FLOURISHED AGAINST INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS.

YES, ISRAEL HAS BEEN ATTACKED ON FOUR OCCASIONS BY HOSTILE NEIGHBORS.

IT HAS BEEN FORCED TO DEVOTE AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF ITS LIMITED WEALTH TO ITS SELF DEFENSE.

AND IT RECENTLY HAS BEEN ISOLATED DIPLOMATICALLY BY A MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS AS A RESULT OF ARAB ECONOMIC PRESSURE.

DESPITE THE UNCEASING HOSTILITY OF ITS NEIGHBORS, THIS  
SMALL NATION HAS SURVIVED BECAUSE OF THE COURAGE AND TENACITY  
OF ITS PEOPLE AND THE FRIENDSHIP OF AMERICA.

MERE DOLLARS FROM AMERICA HAVE NOT KEPT ISRAEL ALIVE.

IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY TO MAKE A DESERT BLOOM AND  
A NATION AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.

IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY TO BUILD A VIABLE ECONOMY  
WHICH TAKES CARE OF ALL OF ITS CITIZENS WITH DECENCY AND  
DIGNITY.

AND IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY TO BUILD A COUNTRY  
CAPABLE OF RECEIVING THE THOUSANDS WHO EVERY YEAR FLEE OPPRESSION  
IN EASTERN EUROPE. IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY FOR ISRAEL TO  
DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST OVERWHELMING NUMBERS.

YES, THERE IS A LESSON FOR AMERICA IN THE ENDURING STRUGGLE OF THAT SMALL JEWISH DEMOCRACY.

IT IS A LESSON THAT SAYS A PEOPLE AND A NATION ARE MADE STRONG NOT BY MERE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OR MILITARY WEAPONS,

THEY BECOME STRONG BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES -- THEY BELIEVE IN THEIR GOD --- AND THEY BELIEVE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTNESS OF THEIR EXISTENCE,

I AM REMINDED OF THE WORDS FROM THE TWENTIETH PSALM WHICH SPEAKS SO WELL OF THIS SPIRIT. IT SAYS: "SOME MAY TRUST IN CHARIOTS, AND OTHERS IN HORSES, BUT FOR US, WE WILL RELY UPON THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD OUR GOD."

AND THE GREAT PROPHET ZACHARIAH EXPRESSED A SIMILAR WISDOM WHEN HE SAID: "NOT WITH STRENGTH AND NOT WITH ARMED MIGHT, BUT WITH MY SPIRIT WILL YOU PREVAIL, SAITH THE LORD GOD."

TWO WEEKS AGO I WAS IN NEW YORK CITY TO SPEAK TO OVER 100,000 JEWS AND CHRISTIANS WHO HAD GATHERED TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE STRUGGLE OF SOVIET JEWRY FOR A LIFE OF DIGNITY AND FREEDOM.

I MENTION THIS EVENT BECAUSE IT HAS RELEVANCE TO OUR DEDICATION THIS EVENING,

THE DRAMA AND SUFFERING OF SOVIET JEWRY IS THE DRAMA AND SUFFERING OF JEWISH HISTORY,

IT IS THE DRAMA OF FAITH AND HOPE. IT IS THE DRAMA OF A BRAVE PEOPLE ENDEAVORING TO KEEP ALIVE THE FLAME OF LIBERTY,

AMERICANS HAVE A GREAT STAKE IN THIS STRUGGLE BECAUSE WE  
ARE THE LAND OF THE IMMIGRANTS AND THE CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT WE MUST NOT ABANDON THESE  
PEOPLE IN THEIR QUEST FOR FREEDOM.

AND IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT WE MUST INSURE THAT THE  
JEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE ABLE TO GO TO A SAFE AND SECURE  
ISRAEL.

THE QUESTION BEFORE THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS TODAY IS:  
WILL THE SUNSET THAT BRINGS IN THE NEXT SABBATH SYMBOLIZE THE  
SUNSET OF THE DEMOCRACY OF ISRAEL?

MY ANSWER IS "NO."

THE ANSWER OUR NATION MUST GIVE THE WORLD IS "NEVER."

THERE IS MUCH TALK IN WASHINGTON ABOUT REAPPRAISING AMERICA'S POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE IS TALK OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND FORCING IT TO ACCEPT A TERRITORIAL SOLUTION WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER ITS SECURITY.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE CONGRESS IS NOT ABOUT TO PARTICIPATE IN OR ENDORSE A POLICY REAPPRAISAL WHICH MEANS THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL LESSEN ITS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

I'VE TOLD THIS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER.

I HAVE TOLD IT TO PRESIDENT FORD, AND I WILL TELL IT TO HIM AGAIN.

AND I WILL CERTAINLY STATE MY POSITION FROM THE FLOOR OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LATEST MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST DID NOT RESULT IN THE SETTLEMENT HE EXPECTED. BUT THIS SETBACK DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR NATION SHOULD ABANDON ITS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO SECURING A LASTING PEACE.

IT SHOULD MEAN INSTEAD THAT WE RENEW OUR EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATION AND EXPLORE WAYS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

A PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY TO ENABLE THE PARTIES TO REACH A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

WE MUST KEEP ALIVE THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH BEGUN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

BUT IN ORDER TO DO THIS, THE ADMINISTRATION MUST PUT A DAMPER ON THE RUMORS OF A POLICY SHIFT. INCREASING ISRAEL'S ANXIETY AND INSECURITY WILL NOT HELP IT TO GRAPPLE WITH THE TOUGH CHOICES IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD.

I WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD DID NOT REAFFIRM OUR NATION'S LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN HIS RECENT FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS TO CONGRESS.

THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE MUST REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL NEED TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT DESERT THEM AND ALLOW THEM TO STAND ALONE.

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL NEED TO KNOW THAT AMERICA WILL NOT  
BE BULLIED OR PRESSURED BY ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL FROM ANY NATION.

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL NEED TO KNOW THAT THEIR SECURITY CAN  
NEVER BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY NEGOTIATION.

AT A TIME OF FRAGILE PEACE, THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST CAN ONLY BE STRENGTHENED IF WE REMAIN STEADFAST  
IN OUR COMMITMENT TO A FRIEND ISOLATED FROM MUCH OF THE REST  
OF THE WORLD.

THIS IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR A FRIEND, AN ALLY, FOR  
A NATION OF PEOPLE DEDICATED TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND  
HUMANITARIAN BELIEFS.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE WITH A STORY FROM THE TALMUD WHICH IS RELEVANT TO OUR CELEBRATION THIS EVENING.

NINETEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO THE LAND OF PALESTINE WAS OCCUPIED BY THE ROMAN LEGIONS AND WAS AFFLICTED WITH A SEVERE DROUGHT. THE CITY OF JERUSALEM WAS ALMOST OUT OF WATER, THE ROMAN OCCUPIERS HAD PLENTY OF WATER IN THEIR OWN RESERVOIRS,

BUT JEWISH PILGRIMS WERE ABOUT TO COME TO THE CITY TO CELEBRATE THE HARVEST HOLIDAYS, AND THERE WAS NO WATER FOR THEM TO DRINK.

THE LEADER OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY -- A MAN NAMED BEN GURION -- WENT TO THE ROMAN GOVERNOR TO TRY TO BORROW WATER FOR THE PILGRIMS. THE ROMANS REFUSED THE REQUEST AND OFFERED A BARGAIN INSTEAD.

THEY WOULD GIVE BEN GURION 12 RESERVOIRS OF WATER FOR HIS PILGRIMS IF HE WOULD PROMISE TO REPLENISH THE WATER IN NINE MONTHS OR PAY THE ROMANS 1200 BARS OF SILVER. HAVING LITTLE CHOICE, THE JEWS AGREED TO THIS DEAL. THE PILGRIMS CAME AND THERE WAS WATER FOR THEM.

BUT THE DROUGHT CONTINUED FOR WEEKS AND MONTHS. FINALLY, AT THE END OF NINE MONTHS, THE ROMAN RESERVOIRS WERE BONE DRY.

ON THE LAST DAY OF THIS NINE MONTH PERIOD, THE ROMAN GOVERNOR SENT A MESSAGE TO BEN GURION. HE SAID, "THE TIME IS UP. THERE IS NO WATER. I WANT THE MONEY."

BEN GURION REPLIED THAT THE SUN HAD NOT SET, THAT HE STILL HAD TIME.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, THE ROMAN GOVERNOR MADE THE SAME DEMAND OF BEN GURION. AS THE SUN BEGAN TO SET, THE ROMAN GOVERNOR FELT CONFIDENT THAT HE HAD VANQUISHED THE JEWS, AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO PAY HIM ALL THEIR MONEY. HE WENT TO HIS ROMAN BATHS TO CELEBRATE.

BEN GURION WENT TO THE TEMPLE AND STOOD BEFORE THE ALTAR OF HIS HERITAGE.

HE CRIED OUT TO HIS GOD: "MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, YOU KNOW THAT I DID NOT ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT FOR PROFIT OR MY GLORY, BUT FOR THE GREATER GLORY SO THAT YOUR CHILDREN COULD HAVE WATER."

AND AS BEN GURION PRAYED, IT BEGAN TO RAIN AS IT HAD NOT RAINED FOR DECADES. THE RESERVOIRS OF JERUSALEM WERE FILLED AND BEGAN TO OVERFLOW.

THE ROMAN GOVERNOR WAS ASTONISHED. HE LEFT HIS BATHHOUSE AND SAW BEN GURION ON THE RAIN-SWEPT STREETS. THE ROMAN SAID, "I ADMIT THAT THE ALMIGHTY HAS CREATED A MIRACLE ON YOUR BEHALF. BUT IT IS TOO LATE, THE SUN HAS NOW SET AND YOU OWE ME THE MONEY, YOUR MIRACLE HAS COME TOO LATE."

AT THIS POINT BEN GURION TURNED TOWARD HEAVEN AND CRIED OUT: "MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, LET ALL SEE ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT THERE IS JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD."

AT THIS POINT, THE RAIN CLOUDS BLEW AWAY AND THE SUN SHONE THROUGH THE CLOUDS, CREATING A MAGNIFICENT SUNSET.

THIS ANCIENT TALMUDIC STORY IS THE STORY OF ISRAEL REBORN.

AFTER THE SLAUGHTER OF SIX MILLION JEWS AND IMPRISONMENT OF THE SOVIET JEWISH COMMUNITY, MANY PERSONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT COUNCILS OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD SEEM TO BE SAYING THAT THE SUN HAS SET FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL, THAT IT IS TOO LATE.

ISRAEL, IT IS SUGGESTED, IS A MIRACLE, BUT TOO LATE.

BUT THOSE OF US WHO ARE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL KNOW THAT THERE IS JUSTICE AND THAT THE SUN HAS NOT SET FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE. BEN GURION NEVER LOST THE FAITH OF HIS FATHERS. HE KNEW THAT THERE WAS HOPE EVEN AT THE DARKEST HOURS.

AND I SAY TO YOU THIS EVENING, THAT WITH FAITH, WITH HOPE,  
WITH COURAGE, THE NATION OF ISRAEL WILL FLOURISH AND BE SECURE,



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