

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
CHICAGO COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE  
TO SECONDARY EDUCATION IN ISRAEL  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

JUNE 24, 1975

Tonight means a great deal to me.

For one thing we are honoring an outstanding leader of the Chicago Jewish Community, Sydney Marovitz.

And I also will have the pleasure of talking with you about two of my favorite topics: education and Israel.

It would be impossible to discuss the modern state of Israel without dealing with the subject of education.

To a young nation, its progressive and innovative educational system has been its life's blood.

To a people striving for their freedom, education has been an important weapon in their struggle.

Throughout history those who have wanted to crush the Jewish people have never succeeded.

Why? Because the emperors, the Pharaohs, the Czars and the dictators never could extinguish the spirit of Judaism as it was passed from father to son through the written and spoken word. Without the Jewish thirst for education of the young, Judaism would have died long ago.

Today, the faith is alive and thrives under conditions good and adverse because the Jewish people have not forgotten the words of Deuteronomy:

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently with thy children."

In few places today is the solemn commitment to education more strong than in the state of Israel.

The work of C.A.S.E. over the years has meant that Israel has had the resources and the tools to carry on its work of universal education.

The great efforts of this fine organization have played a critical role in nation building.

The foundation of any democracy must be constructed on a system of universal education. It is virtually impossible to construct a democratic state, to build democratic institutions, to construct the consensus of democratic government, without universal education.

Israel recognized this from its inception as a nation.

But Israel had a special problem, It was a land of immigrants --people from different backgrounds and cultures. The task of education for Israel was the challenge of providing all types of Jewish immigrants with a good education.

Israel assumed that great obligation to provide all of its young--rich, poor, African, Asian and Occidental--with the type

of education that would make the young nation a viable democracy.

The Israeli educational experiment is an on-going success. It is a process of molding Jewish diversity into vibrant nationhood. Because of Israel's commitment to primary and secondary education, the great potential for ethnic and cultural divisiveness among its people largely has been overcome.

There is a lesson for America in Israel's educational system. And that lesson is that economic status should not be the limit of educational opportunity.

C.A.S.E. lives by this ethic and, indeed, helps make it come true.

Israel's strength today, beyond arms--beyond its tanks and planes--is found in its people. As the great prophet Zachariah proclaimed when he said: "Not with strength and not with armed might, but with my spirit will you prevail, saith the Lord God."

It is this spirit fueled by an educational system second to none which makes Israel strong today.

But I want to talk with you for a moment about the future. Will Israel be strong and free two, five or twenty-five years from now?

The answer to this question does not rest with America alone.

It is true that our commitment to the preservation of Israel, our obligation to support this democracy must never waiver. As a member of the Congress I intend to work tirelessly to have my colleagues honor the solemn pledge of support which six Presidents have made to Israel.

But the future of Israel in the coming years will depend in large measure on its relations with its Arab neighbors. Israel cannot survive forever as an embattled nation surrounded by hostile neighbors. The economic, social and political costs are too great in a continuation of the status quo.

Israel needs peace. Israel wants peace. And only true peace can bring out the great potential which we have seen in this small nation and its people through its 28 years of existence.

The path to peace is complex. All of us have been witness to the efforts of our Secretary of State and our President over the months. The first steps away from war were taken in the shuttle diplomacy of past months.

I do not know whether this type of diplomacy will be resumed, whether there will be a conference in Geneva or a combination of both processes.

But I do know that whatever the negotiation formula to be followed in the coming weeks, it should begin to include direct contacts between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The time has come for Israelis and Arabs to meet face to face to discuss the future of their region.

Such meetings do not have to be over the bargaining table. But Israelis should meet Egyptians and Syrians for general discussions of current problems.

There can be no reconciliation between hostile neighbors.

And there can be no peace unless the process of direct contact begins.

Denial of this contact by Arab leaders only provides a signal to extremists that the days of hostility may continue. Non-contact by Arabs with Israelis is a way of indirectly telling the Arab peoples that Israel does not really exist.

President Sadat is a man who seems to want to accept political reality. It makes no sense that he or his government should persist in avoiding a direct contact with its neighbors.

If Greeks can talk to Turks, if Indians can talk to Pakistanis, if the Communist Chinese can have contacts with Taiwan, and if North Koreans can talk to South Koreans, then Arabs can talk to Israelis.

We must understand that the present policy of non-contact followed by Arab governments only fosters suspicion and hostility between the sides to the dispute.

These human contacts are so important that if for some reason they cannot take place on a government-to-government basis, they should first be between educational, cultural, or sports groups. Ping pong diplomacy worked with us and the Chinese. I see no reason why this type of device could not begin to be used in the Middle East.

Henry Kissinger's successes in international diplomacy have been founded on his developing personal, close contact with various leaders around the globe.

We should not ignore this technique in the Middle East any longer. I believe that President Sadat and President Assad trust Secretary Kissinger. They may disagree. But there is a critical element of trust.

This trust is a result of personal contact among them. These relationships could not have been formed by letter, by telephone or by newspaper editorial.

Why shouldn't Arab leaders begin to have contact with Israel counter-parts as part of a process which could lead to peace?

Or if the leaders won't take the first step, other figures and opinion molders can begin.

But they must begin soon. Time is running out.

We must turn the corner of peace in order to preserve the peace.

This type of action does not involve territory, or troop placements, or concessions. It has to do with understanding among people as the key to peace.

So tonight I ask President Ford and Secretary Kissinger to urge Arab leaders to consider the commencement of personal contacts with Israeli leaders as one vital element in whatever negotiating formula is used. At this moment, the Arabs and Israel need not meet to negotiate directly, although this would be desirable. But they must meet to talk with one another so that they and their people begin to recognize the human dimensions of continued war in the Middle East.

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✓ TONIGHT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME.

✓ FOR ONE THING WE ARE HONORING AN OUTSTANDING LEADER OF THE

CHICAGO JEWISH COMMUNITY, SYDNEY MAROVITZ,

(X) AND I ALSO WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF TALKING WITH YOU ABOUT

TWO OF MY FAVORITE TOPICS: EDUCATION AND ISRAEL.

✓ IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

WITHOUT DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT OF EDUCATION.

✓ TO A YOUNG NATION, <sup>Israel's</sup> ~~ITS~~ PROGRESSIVE AND INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL  
SYSTEM HAS BEEN ITS LIFE'S BLOOD. | ~~Jefferson -~~

✓ TO A PEOPLE STRIVING FOR THEIR FREEDOM, EDUCATION HAS BEEN  
AN IMPORTANT WEAPON IN THEIR STRUGGLE. | ~~Jefferson -~~  
you can't be both  
opponents & free.

✓ THROUGHOUT HISTORY THOSE WHO HAVE WANTED TO CRUSH THE

JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE NEVER SUCCEEDED.

WHY? BECAUSE THE EMPERORS, THE PHAROAHS, THE CZARS AND THE  
DICTATORS NEVER COULD EXTINGUISH THE SPIRIT OF JUDAISM AS IT WAS  
*Mother to Daughters*  
PASSED FROM FATHER TO SON THROUGH THE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD.

WITHOUT THE JEWISH THIRST FOR EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG, JUDAISM  
WOULD HAVE DIED LONG AGO.

TODAY, THE FAITH IS ALIVE AND THRIVES UNDER CONDITIONS GOOD  
AND ADVERSE BECAUSE THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE  
WORDS OF DEUTERONOMY:

"AND THESE WORDS, WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS  
DAY, SHALL BE IN THINE HEART; AND THOU SHALT  
TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY WITH THY CHILDREN."

IN FEW PLACES TODAY IS THE SOLEMN COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION  
*Stronger*  
MORE STRONG THAN IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

# "Community Assistance for Secondary Education"

THE WORK OF C.A.S.E. OVER THE YEARS HAS MEANT THAT ISRAEL HAS HAD THE RESOURCES AND THE TOOLS TO CARRY ON ITS WORK OF

~~UNIVERSAL EDUCATION~~ al opportunity:  
- Hebrew U.  
- Weizmann  
- Technion  
- Weizmann Institute  
- Bar Ilan

THE GREAT EFFORTS OF THIS FINE ORGANIZATION HAVE PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN NATION BUILDING.

THE FOUNDATION OF ANY DEMOCRACY MUST BE CONSTRUCTED ON A SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION. IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO build A DEMOCRATIC STATE, to establish DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, ~~TO CONSTRUCT THE CONSENSUS OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT,~~ WITHOUT UNIVERSAL EDUCATION.

ISRAEL RECOGNIZED THIS FROM ITS beginning AS A State ~~NATION~~

BUT ISRAEL has A SPECIAL PROBLEM, IT is A LAND OF IMMIGRANTS --PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND CULTURES.

↳ THE TASK OF EDUCATION FOR ISRAEL WAS THE CHALLENGE OF

PROVIDING ALL TYPES OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS WITH A GOOD EDUCATION.

↳ ISRAEL ASSUMED THAT GREAT OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE ALL OF ITS  
YOUNG--RICH, POOR, AFRICAN, ASIAN AND OCCIDENTAL--WITH THE TYPE  
OF EDUCATION THAT WOULD MAKE THE YOUNG NATION A Living DEMOCRACY.

↳ THE ISRAELI EDUCATIONAL EXPERIMENT IS AN ON-GOING SUCCESS!

↳ IT IS A PROCESS OF MOLDING JEWISH DIVERSITY INTO VIBRANT NATION-

HOOD. BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

EDUCATION, THE GREAT POTENTIAL FOR ETHNIC AND CULTURAL DIVISIVENESS

AMONG ITS PEOPLE LARGELY HAS BEEN OVERCOME,

↳ THERE IS A LESSON FOR AMERICA IN ISRAEL'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

AND THAT LESSON IS THAT ECONOMIC STATUS SHOULD NOT BE THE LIMIT

OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.

h C.A.S.E. LIVES BY THIS <sup>Standard</sup> ~~ETHIC~~ AND, INDEED, HELPS MAKE IT  
COME TRUE. thousands of scholarships.

h ISRAEL'S STRENGTH TODAY, BYOND ARMS--BEYOND ITS TANKS AND  
PLANES--IS FOUND IN ITS PEOPLE. h AS THE GREAT PROPHET ZACHARIAH  
PROCLAIMED WHEN HE SAID: "NOT WITH STRENGTH AND NOT WITH ARMED

MIGHT, BUT WITH MY SPIRIT WILL YOU PREVAIL, SAITH THE LORD GOD. <sup>h</sup>

h IT IS THIS SPIRIT FUELED BY AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SECOND TO  
NONE WHICH MAKES ISRAEL STRONG TODAY. o

h BUT I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT ABOUT <sup>Israel's</sup> FUTURE. o

h WILL ISRAEL BE STRONG AND FREE TWO, FIVE OR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FROM  
NOW?

h THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION DOES NOT REST WITH AMERICA ALONE. !

It IS TRUE THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PRESERVATION OF ISRAEL,

OUR OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT THIS DEMOCRACY MUST NEVER WAIVER.

*As a member*

A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS I INTEND TO WORK TIRELESSLY TO HAVE MY

COLLEAGUES HONOR THE SOLEMN PLEDGE OF SUPPORT WHICH SIX PRESIDENTS

HAVE MADE TO ISRAEL.

BUT THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL IN THE COMING YEARS WILL DEPEND IN

LARGE MEASURE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS. ISRAEL

CANNOT SURVIVE FOREVER AS AN EMBATTLED NATION SURROUNDED BY

HOSTILE NEIGHBORS. THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL COSTS ARE

TOO GREAT IN A CONTINUATION OF THE STATUS QUO.

ISRAEL NEEDS PEACE. <sup>and</sup> ISRAEL WANTS PEACE. AND ONLY TRUE PEACE

CAN BRING OUT THE GREAT POTENTIAL WHICH WE HAVE SEEN IN THIS

SMALL NATION AND ITS PEOPLE THROUGH ITS 28 YEARS OF EXISTENCE.

*But,*

THE PATH TO PEACE IS COMPLEX. ALL OF US HAVE BEEN WITNESS  
TO THE EFFORTS OF OUR SECRETARY OF STATE AND <sup>THE</sup> ~~OUR~~ PRESIDENT OVER  
THE MONTHS. THE FIRST STEPS AWAY FROM WAR WERE TAKEN IN THE  
SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY OF PAST MONTHS.

I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS TYPE OF DIPLOMACY WILL BE RESUMED,  
WHETHER THERE WILL BE A CONFERENCE IN GENEVA OR A COMBINATION OF  
BOTH PROCESSES.

BUT I DO KNOW THAT WHATEVER THE NEGOTIATION FORMULA TO BE  
FOLLOWED IN THE COMING WEEKS, IT SHOULD BEGIN TO INCLUDE DIRECT  
CONTACTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ISRAELIS AND ARABS TO MEET FACE TO  
FACE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THEIR REGION.

L SUCH MEETINGS DO NOT HAVE TO BE OVER THE BARGAINING TABLE,

BUT, ISRAELIS SHOULD MEET EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS FOR GENERAL  
DISCUSSIONS OF CURRENT PROBLEMS

L THERE CAN BE NO RECONCILIATION BETWEEN HOSTILE NEIGHBORS.

AND THERE CAN BE NO PEACE UNLESS THE PROCESS OF DIRECT CONTACT  
BEGINS.

L DENIAL OF THIS CONTACT BY ARAB LEADERS ONLY PROVIDES A  
SIGNAL TO EXTREMISTS THAT THE DAYS OF HOSTILITY MAY CONTINUE.

L NON-CONTACT BY ARABS WITH ISRAELIS IS A WAY OF INDIRECTLY  
TELLING THE ARAB PEOPLES THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT REALLY EXIST.

L PRESIDENT SADAT IS A MAN WHO SEEMS TO WANT TO ACCEPT POLITICAL,  
REALITY. L IT MAKES NO SENSE THAT HE OR HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD

PERSIST IN AVOIDING A DIRECT CONTACT WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

L IF GREEKS CAN TALK TO TURKS, IF INDIANS CAN TALK TO  
PAKISTANIS, IF THE COMMUNIST CHINESE CAN HAVE CONTACTS WITH  
TAIWAN, AND IF NORTH KOREANS CAN TALK TO SOUTH KOREANS, THEN  
ARABS CAN TALK TO ISRAELIS.

L WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESENT POLICY OF NON-CONTACT  
FOLLOWED BY ARAB GOVERNMENTS ONLY FOSTERS SUSPICION AND HOSTILITY  
BETWEEN THE SIDES TO THE DISPUTE.

L THESE HUMAN CONTACTS ARE SO IMPORTANT THAT IF FOR SOME  
REASON THEY CANNOT TAKE PLACE ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT  
BASIS, THEY SHOULD FIRST BE BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, OR  
SPORTS GROUPS / PING PONG DIPLOMACY WORKED WITH US AND THE CHINESE.  
I SEE NO REASON WHY THIS TYPE OF DEVICE COULD NOT BEGIN TO BE  
USED IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Henry Kissinger's successes in international diplomacy have been based on his developing personal, close contact with various leaders around the globe.

We should not ignore this technique in the Middle East any longer. I believe that President Sadat and President Assad trust Secretary Kissinger. They may disagree, but there is a critical element of trust.

This trust is a result of personal contact among them. These relationships could not have been formed by letter, by telephone or by newspaper editorial.

Why shouldn't Arab leaders begin to have contact with Israeli counter-parts as part of a process which could lead to trust,

Then to peace.

L OR IF THE LEADERS WON'T TAKE THE FIRST STEP, <sup>then</sup> OTHER FIGURES

AND OPINION MOLDERS CAN BEGIN.

L BUT THEY MUST BEGIN SOON. L TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

L WE MUST TURN THE CORNER OF PEACE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE

PEACE.

L THIS TYPE OF ACTION DOES NOT INVOLVE TERRITORY, OR TROOP

PLACEMENTS, OR CONCESSIONS. L IT HAS TO DO WITH UNDERSTANDING

AMONG PEOPLE AS THE KEY TO PEACE.

SO TONIGHT I <sup>urge</sup> ASK PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER TO

~~URGE ARAB LEADERS TO CONSIDER THE COMMENCEMENT OF PERSONAL~~ <sup>propose and urge that Arab + Israeli</sup>

~~CONTACTS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS AS ONE VITAL ELEMENT IN WHATEVER~~ <sup>leaders begin personal contacts as a basis</sup>

~~STEP TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS FOR~~ <sup>NEGOTIATING FORMULA IS USED.</sup>

~~PLACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.~~ <sup>place in the middle east.</sup>

~~AT THIS MOMENT, THE ARABS AND ISRAEL NEED NOT MEET TO  
NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE. BUT  
THEY MUST MEET TO TALK WITH ONE ANOTHER SO THAT THEY AND  
THEIR PEOPLE BEGIN TO RECOGNIZE THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF  
CONTINUED WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST.~~

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