

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
REMARKS TO SUPREME SOVIET
MOSCOW, U.S.S.R.
June 30, 1975

First of all, on behalf of the entire American delegation, I want to tell you and your colleagues how pleased and honored we are to be here and how appreciative we are of the cordial hospitality you have extended. We have been looking forward to this opportunity to exchange views with you.

We are here in our capacities as United States Senators, members of an equal, coordinate, and independent branch of the United States Government. In what each of us says here, we will be expressing our personal, individual views which may or may not coincide with those of the President, the Secretary of State, or our good friend the Ambassador. Indeed, with respect to some matters we may even disagree among ourselves.

But I also want to emphasize the essential unity of the American government and the American people.

Our approach to foreign policy is nonpartisan. We have a delegation here composed of both Democrats and Republicans. One co-chairman is of the Democratic Party, the other from the Republican Party.

However, as the late President Johnson used to say, "The things that unite us are stronger than the things that divide us" -- a statement which I suggest applies to our respective countries.

Everybody wants and needs food to eat, clothes to wear, a house to live in. On a more basic level, nobody wants to be the victim of disease, poverty, ignorance and war.

As the two strongest nuclear powers, the United States and the Soviet Union have a special responsibility to create the conditions that will make possible peace and security. Our mutual task is to reduce tensions and promote understanding.

But even more important, together we have a very special responsibility on behalf of generations to come. That responsibility

(more)

goes far beyond political parties, individual personalities or current governments.

We are but pioneers in the search for peace in the nuclear and space age. We must dare to do great things -- to try new approaches -- to reach beyond the barriers of the past and to probe the opportunities of tomorrow.

The most important business of our two governments is to reach an agreement to control and hopefully to reduce nuclear weapons. These measures should be accompanied by steps to reduce tensions generally -- for example, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction talks, the efforts to achieve a just and durable settlement in the Middle East.

These are the immediate priorities. Whatever the United States and the Soviet Union may do will have a significant impact on the entire world. Therefore, we owe it to ourselves and all of mankind to seek through the patience and perseverance in negotiations, agreements on these vital matters.

Knowing each other is an indispensable first step. Hopefully, our visit here will be a worthwhile contribution in this respect.

Let me say also that there is a good deal more to Soviet-American relations than simple mutual survival. The Soviet people can justifiably be proud of their accomplishments in industry and agriculture, in the arts, science and technology.

The first Soviet-American Space Mission, only two weeks from now, will certainly set a new standard in international collaboration. I hope it will lead to further cooperative endeavors in other fields, in health, in agriculture, in expanded cultural and educational exchanges, and in the broader areas of science and technology.

All of these things -- whether astronauts working together in space or legislators talking together on the ground -- are the building blocks of peace. The mortar that holds them together is mutual respect,

Let us begin.

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Moscow

~~SEN. HUMPHREY~~
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6/30/75

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