

m
alex astren
President
Synagogue
May 20, 1976

President's men's club.
Jeff Friedson
May 21, 1976
Dave Aaron

MEMORANDUM

FOR: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

SUBJECT: Apperance at B'nai Abraham Mikro-Tifereth
Synagogue in St. Louis Park

Rabbi Kamens
Cantor Markovitch

B. Centennial

You are being invited to the synagogue to participate
in the sabbath services by the congregation's men's
club. Mr. Dave Aaron and Rabbi Sylvan Kamens are
the principals involved

*Decl of Incl - unalienable Rts of Life, Liberty, + Pursuit
of Happiness*

The subject of your message is "ethnic bicen-
tennial." Following are some themes which you may
want to use:

concl - (we the people)

WE LIVE IN A PLURALISTIC NATION--A COUNTRY OF
MINORITIES--EACH WITH A DISTINCT AND PROUD HERITAGE.

COMBINED, THEY MAKE UP THE FASCINATING MOSAIC THAT
IS AMERICAN LIFE.

WE HAVE NO SINGLE AMERICAN IDENTITY. *ethnic* ON THE
CONTRARY, IT IS ONLY IN TOTALITARIAN REGIMES THAT

THERE IS AN OFFICIAL IDENTITY TO WHICH ALL THE
PEOPLE MUST CONFORM.

Painful
WE HAVE ALL LEARNED THIS LESSON FROM THE SOCIAL
UPHEAVALS OF THE PAST FEW DECADES.

and WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA IS MORE THAN JUST
ONE BIG "MELTING POT."

INDEED, AMERICA IS A TAPESTRY OF MANY COLORS,
BELIEFS AND CULTURES.

*America is freedom, + etc
It is individuality -*

WE MUST NOT TELL BLACK AMERICANS, LATIN-AMERICANS,
ITALIAN-AMERICANS OR JEWISH-AMERICANS TO SUBMERGE
OR IGNORE THEIR INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES AND HERITAGE.

WE MUST INSTEAD REALIZE THAT A ROBUST AND VIBRANT
AMERICA REQUIRES THE FULL CONTRIBUTION OF OUR MANY
GROUPS--THAT OUR ^{separate} DISTINCTIVE TRADITIONS HAVE MEANING
TODAY AND VALUE FOR US ALL.

AND IT IS ESPECIALLY HERE THAT THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY IS MAKING A VERY HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION.

THE CONCERNS OF AMERICA ARE NOT NARROW, REQUIRING
SIMPLE SOLUTIONS. THEY REQUIRE THE USE OF EVERY RESOURCE
WE CAN COMMAND--AND ONE GREAT RESOURCE IS THE GREAT
JEWISH HERITAGE.

↳ THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN AMERICA PLAYS A VITAL
ROLE IN SHAPING THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY. ↳ YOUR
VAST NETWORK OF SYNAGOGUES, SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS
AND COMMUNITY CENTERS BEAR WITNESS TO YOUR COMMUNITY'S
ACHIEVEMENTS. ~~##~~

↳ JUDAISM HAS ALWAYS STOOD ~~up~~ FOR WHAT IT DEEPLY
BELIEVES IN. ↳ IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO SACRIFICE
IN ORDER TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO ITS HERITAGE.

↳ ALL AMERICANS CAN LEARN FROM YOUR EXAMPLE--~~It~~
ISN'T EASY TO BE A MINORITY ~~IN AMERICA~~ AND TO OFTEN
STAND ALONE FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE--BUT SOMETIMES IT
IS NECESSARY. ~~A true society is one in~~

~~which you are safe in~~
↳ ISRAEL HAS STOOD ALONE WITH VERY FEW FRIENDS IN
THE WORLD AT THE U. N. AND ELSEWHERE. ↳ BUT NATIONS
LIKE OURS UNDERSTAND ISRAEL'S COURAGE IN THE FACE OF
INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS.

↳ THE LESSONS OF PLURALISM ARE TO RESPECT AND
CHERISH THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EACH AND EVERY SEGMENT
OF HUMAN SOCIETY.

↳ OUT OF OUR OWN PLURALISTIC HERITAGE--OUT OF OUR
OWN ETHNIC BICENTENNIAL--WE MUST ALL BE DEEPLY
CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS

EVERYWHERE, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE SOVIET UNION. - Soviet Jewry

↳ THIS IS NOT JUST A JEWISH PROBLEM.

↳ IT IS A HUMAN PROBLEM. ↳ IT IS A MORAL PROBLEM.

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE DENIED
THE RUDIMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS
AND EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM. ↳ THESE RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT
TO UNRESTRICTED EMIGRATION ARE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
WHICH NO GOVERNMENT SHOULD ~~BE PERMITTED TO~~ ABROGATE
OR CIRCUMSCRIBE.

- What Kind of Super Power is it that
fears a Jewish Prayer Book -

↳ THE MESSAGE MUST GO FORTH FROM THIS SYNAGOGUE
TONIGHT AS IT HAS GONE FORTH FROM WASHINGTON AND
OTHER GREAT CITIES OF THE WORLD TO THOSE IN THE SOVIET
UNION WHO LISTEN TO OUR VOICES. ↳ TONIGHT WE MUST
SAY TO THE LEADERS OF SOVIET RUSSIA, "LET YOUR JEWISH
CITIZENS LIVE AS JEWS OR LEAVE AS JEWS."

↳ WE IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS HAVE MADE THIS
POSITION A CORNERSTONE OF OUR POLICY TOWARDS SOVIET-
AMERICAN RELATIONS.

↳ I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS
OF THIS POLICY. ↳ MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS AFTER LENIN'S
REVOLUTION, THE FLAME OF JEWISH FREEDOM IS ALIVE IN
RUSSIA.

↳ IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET JEW HAS NEVER GIVEN UP
IN HIS STRUGGLE, AND WE MUST NOT ABANDON OUR
STRUGGLE EITHER.

DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR, IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT WE PLACE A PREMIUM ON FREEDOM AT HOME AND THE
SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACIES ABROAD. ^{Freedom} FOR THIS REASON, THE
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL, RELIGIOUS AND
ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION MUST BE AN IMPORTANT GOAL
IN OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

AND, IN THE SAME SPIRIT, OUR SUPPORT FOR
ISRAEL--A SMALL DEMOCRACY SURROUNDED BY NON-DEMOCRATIC
NATIONS--MUST CONTINUE UNABATED.

SPEAKING OF ISRAEL, ONLY A SHORT TIME FOLLOWING
THE CELEBRATION OF THE 28TH YEAR OF STATEHOOD, I AM
REMINDING OF AN IMPORTANT LESSON FROM JEWISH HISTORY.

2700 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, 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."

↳ THAT PROMISE OF AMOS HAS COME TRUE. 28 YEARS AGO ISRAEL WAS BORN--I SHOULD SAY THAT ISRAEL WAS REBORN. ↳ OUR CHALLENGE DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL IS TO SUPPORT FREEDOM EVERYWHERE--FREEDOM IN ISRAEL, FREEDOM IN THE SOVIET UNION, FREEDOM IN GREECE, IN PORTUGAL, IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

↳ THE LESSON FOR THE WORLD FROM OUR ETHNIC BICENTENNIAL IS THAT DIVERSE PEOPLES CAN LIVE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN HARMONY, IN PROSPERITY AND IN PEACE.



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