

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
DELIVERED BY MRS. FRANCES HUMPHREY HOWARD  
UPON ACCEPTING THE GOLDA MEIR AWARD  
PRESENTED BY THE PIONEER WOMEN

Washington, D. C.

October 17, 1977

I am privileged to accept this award on behalf of my brother, Hubert. I know he deeply regrets not being able to be here tonight to receive this most impressive award in person. However, he did want me to deliver the following message which, I think, reflects his deep appreciation of your kindness:

"I am particularly honored in being selected to be the first recipient of the Golda Meir Award. This is particularly meaningful because it is given in the name of an individual who has been hailed as the most admired woman in the world -- a woman who personifies the intellect, the humanity, the courage and the spirit which epitomizes one of the most exciting developments of this century -- the establishment of the modern state of Israel.

"Golda Meir's rise -- in both a personal and national sense -- represents one of the greatest success stories of our time.

"She was born of a poor Russian-Jewish immigrant family who escaped persecution in Czarist Russia. She was raised and educated in the United States. Shortly after World War I, she left the security of our country and a promising career for the precarious life of a pioneer in Palestine. Her appreciation of the freedom of American democracy prepared her for the intensive efforts she undertook to help create a homeland for the oppressed Jews of the world.

"Marie Syrkin, who edited Golda Meir's autobiography, entitled A Land of Our Own, has said of this great woman:

...she has played a major part in every phase of the political and military struggle which led to the establishment of the state of Israel. Golda Meir is unique among Israeli leaders in that she is the only prominent Israeli of the pioneer generation to have come from the United States and the only American Jew to be one of the signatories of the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

"Golda Meir has served as an inspiration to all of us who value freedom, human dignity and security from repression. She has a most compelling intellect, and I can think of no finer tribute to that intellect than her own words on Peace in the Middle East:

I want my grandchildren to live in an Israel that is part and parcel of this entire area, but I don't want them to live in an Israel that will always be complimented as the only democratic state here, the only developed state. I want Israel to be a part of a highly developed culturally advanced Middle East with much cooperation between its peoples. Each **people** maintaining its individual characteristics and yet a region that lives together. Above all, I hope that Israel will become the ideal, just society of which we dreamed.

"It is this vision, this humanity which has made Golda Meir an exemplary model for all of us. I long have admired her. It has been a great privilege for me to count her as a close friend. That is why this award will have a special meaning for me. I deeply appreciate this kindness you have bestowed on me. Thank you very much."

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I AM PRIVILEGED TO ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON BEHALF OF MY BROTHER, HUBERT. I KNOW HE DEEPLY REGRETS NOT BEING ABLE TO BE HERE TONIGHT TO RECEIVE THIS MOST IMPRESSIVE AWARD IN PERSON. HOWEVER, HE DID WANT ME TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WHICH, I THINK, REFLECTS HIS DEEP APPRECIATION OF YOUR KINDNESS:

"I AM PARTICULARLY HONORED IN BEING SELECTED TO BE THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE GOLDA MEIR AWARD. THIS IS PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN IN THE NAME OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN HAILED AS THE MOST ADMIRER WOMAN IN THE WORLD -- A WOMAN WHO PERSONIFIES THE INTELLECT, THE HUMANITY, THE COURAGE AND THE SPIRIT WHICH EPITOMIZES ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS CENTURY -- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL.

As you all know so well -2-

"GOLDA MEIR'S RISE -- IN BOTH A PERSONAL AND NATIONAL SENSE -- REPRESENTS ONE OF THE GREATEST SUCCESS STORIES OF OUR TIME.

Let us in her honor - reiterate some of the salient + important facts of her life.

"SHE WAS BORN OF A POOR RUSSIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANT FAMILY WHO ESCAPED PERSECUTION IN CZARIST RUSSIA. SHE WAS RAISED AND EDUCATED IN THE UNITED STATES. SHORTLY AFTER WORLD WAR I, SHE LEFT THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND A PROMISING CAREER FOR THE PRECARIOUS LIFE OF A PIONEER IN PALESTINE. HER APPRECIATION OF THE FREEDOM OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY PREPARED HER FOR THE INTENSIVE EFFORTS SHE UNDERTOOK TO HELP CREATE A HOMELAND FOR THE OPPRESSED JEWS OF THE WORLD.

"MARIE SYRKIN, WHO EDITED GOLDA MEIR'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY, ENTITLED A LAND OF OUR OWN, HAS SAID OF THIS GREAT WOMAN:

...SHE HAS PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN EVERY PHASE OF THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRUGGLE WHICH LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. GOLDA MEIR IS UNIQUE AMONG ISRAELI LEADERS IN THAT SHE IS THE ONLY PROMINENT ISRAELI OF THE PIONEER GENERATION TO HAVE COME FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE ONLY AMERICAN JEW TO BE ONE OF THE SIGNATORIES OF THE ISRAELI DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

"GOLDA MEIR HAS SERVED AS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US WHO VALUE FREEDOM, HUMAN DIGNITY AND SECURITY FROM REPRESSION. SHE HAS A MOST COMPELLING INTELLECT, AND I CAN THINK OF NO FINER TRIBUTE TO THAT INTELLECT THAN HER OWN WORDS ON PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

I WANT MY GRANDCHILDREN TO LIVE IN AN ISRAEL THAT IS PART AND PARCEL OF THIS ENTIRE AREA, BUT I DON'T WANT THEM TO LIVE IN AN ISRAEL THAT WILL ALWAYS BE COMPLIMENTED AS THE ONLY DEMOCRATIC STATE HERE, THE ONLY DEVELOPED STATE. I WANT ISRAEL TO BE A PART OF A HIGHLY DEVELOPED, CULTURALLY ADVANCED MIDDLE EAST WITH MUCH COOPERATION BETWEEN ITS PEOPLES. EACH PEOPLE MAINTAINING ITS INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS AND YET A REGION THAT LIVES TOGETHER. ABOVE ALL, I HOPE THAT ISRAEL WILL BECOME THE IDEAL, JUST SOCIETY OF WHICH WE DREAMED.

"IT IS THIS VISION, THIS HUMANITY WHICH HAS MADE GOLDA MEIR AN EXEMPLARY MODEL FOR ALL OF US. I LONG HAVE ADMIRER HER.

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO COUNT HER AS A CLOSE  
FRIEND. THAT IS WHY THIS AWARD WILL HAVE A SPECIAL MEANING  
FOR ME. I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THIS KINDNESS YOU HAVE BESTOWED  
ON ME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

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Bill + Sandy  
McMasteria -

Sen Dale  
Jennings Randolph  
Stepford  
Young  
Anderson

TELEPHONE MESSAGE

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FATHER HESBURGH DINNER

OCTOBER 3, 1977

- Cardinal Sheehan

Roy Wilkins  
- Sen Dale

- Patricia  
Parris

Dr. John Knowles

- Mr Chief Justice

- Cong. John Brademas

- Senator Wendell Anderson + Mary

- V.P. Mondate -

and other distinguished guests  
to numerous to mention

But above all, the men we ask  
to honor, but whose presence  
honors all of us.

Father Hesburgh

Cong Brademas, Donator Anderson, Father Hesburgh

I AM SORRY THAT MRS. HUMPHREY AND I CANNOT  
BE WITH YOU IN PERSON TONIGHT AS WE HONOR OUR  
FRIEND, FATHER HESBURGH. NO ONE IS MORE DESERVING  
OF OUR RECOGNITION THAN THIS GREAT HUMANITARIAN, this  
spiritual and  
INSPIRING MORAL FORCE, AND GIFTED LEADER OF AMERICAN  
HIGHER EDUCATION. FATHER HESBURGH IS AN EXAMPLE TO  
US ALL -- A MAN OF EXCELLENCE AND A MAN OF GOD.

HAVING SAID THIS, I AM HUMBLED BY THE KIND  
REMARKS THAT FATHER HESBURGH HAS JUST MADE. CERTAINLY  
I WOULD NEVER CHALLENGE OR DISPUTE THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH  
OF EVERYTHING SAID BY A MAN OF THE CLOTH. SERIOUSLY,  
I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO FATHER HESBURGH FOR his gift HIS WARM  
FRIENDSHIP.

But lest I forget, THE MAN WE ARE HONORING HERE TONIGHT IS  
FATHER HESBURGH. AND WHAT A DISTINCTION IT IS TO HAVE  
THE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF THE DISTINGUISHED LEADERS  
OF OUR NATION THAT ARE HERE TONIGHT AS YOUR FRIENDS.

THAT ALONE IS A UNIQUE TESTIMONIAL TO THE VALUE AND  
CONTRIBUTION OF THIS MAN. <sup>Father</sup> I KNOW I SPEAK FOR ALL OF  
US IN SAYING THAT TO KNOW YOU HAS ENRICHED OUR LIVES.

↳ TO WORK WITH YOU IS TO EXPERIENCE A RENEWAL OF SPIRIT.

↳ FATHER HESBURGH HAS GIVEN SO MUCH TO HIS COUNTRY  
AND TO MANKIND. ↳ HE HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF  
US DURING A TIME WHEN CYNICISM, SUSPICION, DOUBT AND  
DESPAIR SEEM TO CLAIM SO MANY OF OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS.

↳ FATHER ~~HESBURGH~~ <sup>Father</sup> HAS USED HIS TALENT, ENERGY AND  
POSITION TO DO THE WORK OF THE LORD AS HE SEES IT.

↳ HE HAS ALWAYS STRIVED TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY AND THE  
WORLD A LITTLE BETTER place to live. AS A RESULT,

HIS LIFE HAS BEEN ONE OF CONSTANT "COMPASSIONATE CARING"  
FOR PEOPLE.

FATHER HESBURGH HAS TIRELESSLY WORKED FOR THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND MORAL REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS, FOR THE FULL CIVIL RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THE OBJECT OF DISCRIMINATION, FOR A SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT FOCUSES ON VALUES AS WELL AS TECHNICAL SKILL, AND FOR THE GUARANTEE TO EVERY PERSON OF HIS OR HER FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS WITHOUT THE FEAR OF REPRESSION. HE HAS MADE HIS MARK AT NOTRE DAME, IN WASHINGTON, AND WHEREVER HE HAS BROUGHT THE GREAT FORCE OF HIS IDEAS.

YES, FATHER HESBURGH DESERVES OUR ADMIRATION FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AS PRESIDENT OF ONE OF OUR GREATEST UNIVERSITIES FOR 25 YEARS. HE DESERVES OUR PRAISE FOR HIS *courageous leadership* ~~GREAT~~ WORK AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION.

AND, HE DESERVES OUR GRATITUDE FOR HELPING TO GIVE THE CAUSE OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS THE PRIORITY IN WORLD AFFAIRS THAT IT MUST HAVE.

↳ BUT, ABOVE ALL OF THIS, FATHER HESBURGH IS OUR MODEL  
AND OUR FRIEND BECAUSE WITH ALL OF THE ACCLAIM, ALL THE  
ACHIEVEMENTS, HE HAS REMAINED A HUMBLE MAN, A LOVING  
MAN, A GOOD PRIEST AND SERVANT OF GOD.

Father Ted ( I AM PROUD TO KNOW YOU, PROUD TO WORK WITH YOU AND  
PROUD TO CALL YOU MY FRIEND.

and now IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO INTRODUCE THE  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WALTER MONDALE  
FOR REMARKS AND A PRESENTATION TO FATHER HESBURGH.



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