

Hadassah Convention - Atlantic City - September 16, 1951

Senator Humphrey Excerpts

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The preservation of freedom requires more than military victory. The war against Communism is not merely a war of tanks and guns. The war against Communism is also a relentless war against poverty, misery, and disease. We must convince the peoples of the world that democratic ideals mean a fuller and richer life for them. We must convince them that our objective is to change the face of the earth with something other than the H bomb. Our objective is to achieve peace, freedom, and full stomachs for all men, women, and children.

The American people understand this because we have enjoyed the fruits of liberty and equality. We cannot, however, expect the under-privileged peoples of the world -- who will in the end determine the resolution of the conflict between democracy and totalitarianism -- to accept us at our word. It is this which we must understand if we are to prevail. It is, therefore, in Asia and in Africa that we find ourselves today, perhaps, weakest not only militarily but ideologically. We face a relentless enemy who has faith in his ultimate destiny, and who therefore stands ready and able to exploit our every weakness and use every weapon in the arsenal of totalitarianism propaganda to further weaken us. In our attempt to reach the minds and hearts of the peoples of Asia we in the United States face a number of problems which the Communists have exploited. This has made it easier for them to assert a powerful influence over many of the under-privileged populations of the world.

First, the fact that our own colored peoples in some

sections of America are relegated to second-class citizenship is so magnified and distorted abroad that the colored peoples of the world mistrust our words of good will.

The second is the fact that we of the western world are associated frequently with the evils of colonial exploitation.

Third, is the fact that any nation blessed with such an abundance of material resources and comforts easily becomes an object of envy and hostility on the part of those not so fortunate.

These factors, distorted and exaggerated by unscrupulous propaganda, place us at a decided disadvantage in the conflict of loyalties.

Our country has made great strides toward overcoming them by working within the United Nations. Thus, we today stand with 56 nations operating through the United Nations in a common military effort; but it is not enough to speak with guns alone. We must urge the United Nations to set forth immediately, in clear and unmistakably vivid and realistic terms, a world program, in the form of a United Nations Declaration of Goals for Freedom, Peace, and Security.

The United Nations General Assembly meets again very soon in Paris. We again have an opportunity to strengthen ourselves in the eyes of the world.

The underdeveloped countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are distinguished from other areas in that three-fourths of their working population is engaged in agriculture, largely on a primitive, noncommercial, subsistence level. Twenty-eight of the fifty-three independent countries of the world are underdeveloped

in this sense. Their per capita incomes average much less than the equivalent of \$100 a year, with our own more than 10 times as great. They form two-thirds of all the people on the earth.

We have the weapons of technological and scientific advancement to help the world face and conquer this problem. We have these weapons in abundance and it is the most effective asset we have for freedom and democracy. At a time when we appropriate vast billions of dollars for armaments which we all agree are necessary to defeat the aggressor on the battlefield, we must show the good judgment to spend but a small portion of that amount to undermine the aggressor, capture the loyalty, the hearts and minds of people, and undermine the appeal of totalitarianism.

It is necessary that the leaders of our nation appear before the Assembly of the United Nations and address a message to the populations of the world, to be broadcast wherever men may hear. That message should state the objectives of whatever military endeavors, including those in Korea, in which the United States and the United Nations reluctantly and yet determinedly engage. The message should clearly enunciate the ennobling idea which is democracy and relate that idea with the basic truths to be found in the cultural, religious and historical traditions of Asia. It should proclaim the profound and consuming conviction of the dignity, equality, and worth of every individual of whatever status, race, creed or color - and our determination to make the true meaning and promise of democracy a reality.

The most effective way to dramatize the United Nations Declaration of Goals for Freedom, Peace and Security would be to translate our ideals into a program which has a specific practical

meaning to a Korean farmer, an Indian worker, an Indonesian merchant, and a program which can capture his imagination. Just as we are now demonstrating to the world that America does not shrink from the task of stopping military aggression, no matter what the cost of sacrifice, so we must assure the world that we are prepared to act with equal courage and sacrifice through the United Nations to check poverty, sickness, exploitation and injustice.

The United States should pledge her full partnership in a United Nations program to achieve those goals of freedom peace and security. Our nation should plan a broad program of economic assistance to the Asiatic area. Projects under this plan should be primarily aimed at placing these nations on a self-sustaining, independent basis. There is a tremendous need for the improvement of agriculture, for the reclamation of land, the conservation of basic natural resources, the construction of hydro-electric power facilities, flood control, irrigation, and the expansion of public health facilities. A program of this nature can lift the standard of living and save these nations from internal political and economic collapse. Economic development and political stabilization are essential factors in checking the movement of the communist ideology into the Asiatic world. The development of economic and political resources of the Asiatic countries is fundamental to the strengthening of the United Nations -- it is fundamental to human freedom.

Finally we must make one more appeal to the conscience of man. We must assert that the ultimate policy of the United States is one which seeks to establish a world society, free of militarism. We should again propose, therefore, a program of international disarmament and the effective international abolition of conscription.



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"There is a bright spot in this story of increasing inhumanity of man to man in the world. The bright spot is Israel."

Senator Humphrey paid tribute to "the great miracle of modern times" in describing the activities of the Israel state.

"To the free world the story of Israel is a vital and intimate part of the story of mankind," he said. "Those who worked for the creation of the State of Israel," Senator Humphrey continued, paying tribute to Henrietta Szold and the 300,000 Hadassah members, "told the free people of the world, the Congress, the United Nations, and the people of the United States that the Israeli State, if established, would provide a sanctuary for the homeless. As a result, the DP camps of Europe are emptied of all Jews and Israel's population is now doubled and reaches a million and a half. Such a voluntary mass influx has no parallel in recorded history. The United States in no single year increased its population by more than 3%. Yet within the ~~next~~ year the State of Israel will have increased its population by 200%. This immigration has been called 'not a melting pot, but a pressure cooker'.

"In one other respect is this immigration unique. It is accompanied by a sense of responsibility on the part of the Israeli Government and world Jewry that the health, the education, the clothing, and the spiritual needs of the refugees must be cared for."

Senator Humphrey paid tribute to Hadassah's activities in building hospitals, tuberculosis units, health centers, immigration camps, and playgrounds.

Finally, Senator Humphrey pointed to the significant ways

which the growth of Israel resembled that of the United States. He pointed to the similar pioneer spirit, the development through migration, and the birth through struggle. "Indeed history may some day recall that the emancipation of Israel's people meant as much for the independence and liberation of the Middle East as 1776 meant to our hemisphere."

"Israel," the Senator continued, "is fashioning its life and its institutions in the image of western democracy. It respects human personality, defends the right of its people to be free. It encourages initiative and enterprise and mobilizes its economy to raise the long-range living standards of all its citizens."

Senator Humphrey called Israel "a laboratory for the democratic way of life in the Near East" and "a pilot plant for democratic institutions."

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# NEWS

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Israel Foreign Minister Sharett Warns Arabs May Use  
Paris Parleys to Compromise Israel's Independence

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Hadassah President, Mrs. Halprin, Clarifies Group's  
Stand on Future Role of Zionist Movement

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ATLANTIC CITY -- Declaring that the fight against Communism "is not merely a war of tanks and guns," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D. Minn.) said tonight (Sun. Sept. 16), that democracy's battle was also a relentless one "against poverty, misery and disease". He called upon the United Nations to formulate a world program of "Goals for Freedom, Peace and Security."

Speaking before 3,500 delegates at the opening of the 37th annual convention of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America at Convention Hall, Senator Humphrey also said that "Israel was a laboratory for the democratic way of life in the Near East and was fashioning its life and institutions in the image of western democracy."

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Other speakers were Moshe Sharett, Foreign Minister of Israel; Arthur Lourie, Israel Consul General and Deputy Delegate to the United Nations, and Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, of New York, National President of Hadassah. Mrs. David de Sola Pool delivered the invocation and Mrs. David B. Greenberg gave the in memoriam address. Mrs. Moses P. Epstein chaired the evening session, and Mrs. Siegfried Kramarsky, national convention chairman opened in the afternoon. All are of New York City.

Senator Humphrey said that "We must convince the peoples of the world that democratic ideals mean a fuller and richer life for them. We must convince them that our objective is to change the face of the earth with something other than the H-bomb. Our objective is to achieve peace, freedom and full stomachs for all men, women and children."

The American people, he said, understand this because "we have enjoyed the fruits of liberty and equality. We cannot, however, expect the underprivileged people of the world who will in the end determine the resolution of the conflict between democracy and totalitarianism to accept us on our word."

In the ideological struggle to win Asia and Africa where the Senator said the ultimate battle between democracy and totalitarianism will be fought, he pointed out that our Communist adversaries were ruthlessly exploiting American problems to make significant gains in these key areas.

These included, he said "the fact that our own colored peoples in some sections of America are relegated to second class citizenship...that we of the western world are associated frequently with the evils of colonial exploitation...and that any nation

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blessed with abundance can become the object of envy and hostility on the part of those not so fortunate."

The Senator from Minnesota said, "At a time when we appropriate vast billions of dollars for armaments which we all agree are necessary to defeat the aggressor on the battlefield, we must show the good judgment to spend but a small portion of that amount to undermine the aggressor, capture the loyalty, the hearts and minds of people and undermine the appeal of totalitarianism."

He urged the United States to pledge full partnership in a United Nations program to achieve freedom, peace and security. Our nation should plan a broad program of economic assistance to the world, he said, which should include among other things, the reclamation of land, the conservation of basic natural resources, the construction of hydro-electric power facilities, flood control, irrigation and the expansion of public health facilities. These measures can help raise the standard of living and save these nations from internal political and economic collapse, he said. Economic development and political stabilization are essential factors in checking the movement of the Communist ideology into the Asiatic and African worlds, he added.

Turning to Israel, Senator Humphrey stressed the significant ways in which the growth of Israel "resembled that of the United States". He pointed to the pioneer spirit, the development through immigration and the "birth through struggle", which characterized the history of both Israel and the United States.

"Indeed, history may some day recall," he said, "that the emancipation of Israel's people meant as much for the

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independence and liberation of the Middle East as 1776 meant to our hemisphere. To the free world the story of Israel is a vital and intimate part of the story of mankind."

Senator Humphrey paid tribute to Hadassah's activities in Israel, which include operation of a network of seven hospitals, partnership with the Hebrew University in Israel's only medical school; resettlement and rehabilitation of youth refugees through Youth Aliyah (immigration) of which Hadassah is the official representative in America; a vocational education program and land redemption projects.

Pointing out that the Arab nations still refuse to sit at the same table with Israel's representative at the Paris peace conference called by the UN Palestine Conciliation Commission, Mr. Sharett warned that "these states would undoubtedly try to achieve through the Paris parleys what they had failed to gain by brute force."

He expressed concern as to whether the Conciliation Commission, on which the United States was the principal member, would sponsor an attempt to penalize Israel for her survival by imposing on her one-sided concessions. "Israel had not achieved her independence by the sacrifice of blood and treasure only to see it crippled by a political settlement," he said.

The key issue Mr. Sharett asserted, was whether Israel's Arab neighbors would recognize the independence of Israel, as the rest of the world has done "in terms of both area and population."

The Foreign Minister reaffirmed that his government was anxious to cooperate with the United Nations and "leave no avenue unexplored in the quest for peace." That was the reason, he said,

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that Israel had gone to Paris, despite the repeated refusals of the Arab states to talk peace directly with Israel representatives.

Mr. Sharett expressed once again Israel's willingness to make compensation for abandoned Arab lands, but said that restoration of Arab refugees to their pre-war status in Israel was a solution that his country could not accept in its entirety.

Reviewing the record of amity and assistance that the United States government had shown Israel since its inception, the Foreign Minister cited the recently concluded Friendship, Commerce and Navigation Agreement and the grant-in-aid, which is now in the final stages of approval by Congress.

Mrs. Halprin, who just returned from Jerusalem where she headed Hadassah's 32-member delegation to the 23rd World Zionist Congress, said that "as Zionists we endorse the concept of Chalutzit (pioneering training), and understand the appeal of Israel to the American Jewish youth that some should come to share in the upbuilding of Israel through their skills and the addition of their democratic patterns of life. We believe that some American youth will respond to the call and that it should receive the moral support and material help of the Zionist movement.

But the American Jewish community, Hadassah's president pointed out, is "rooted in American life, bound in loyalty to the great democracy of which it is a part." American Jews, she added, are part of the Diaspora, "which they do not negate because they consider the Diaspora a part of the stream of Jewish history."

Mr. Lourie brought official greetings from the Israel government to the convention and said that despite "great and continuing difficulties, the past year has been one of rapid growth and solid achievement."

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The Consul General referred to relations with the Arab nations as a "less auspicious chapter" of the past year. He charged that they still seek to strangle Israel economically and "keep alive the threat of renewed hostilities."

Israel, he asserted, was ready to meet the Arabs any time "face to face and to negotiate a just and lasting peace. But as long as these countries refuse to meet with us and to maintain an attitude of belligerent intransigence, we must be ready for the worst and to that end are obliged, unwillingly but inevitably, to devote a large part of our national income to the needs of defence."

Monday's program will be devoted to workshops and plenary sessions for the discussion of Hadassah's youth services, youth refugee rehabilitation and medical programs. Chief speakers will be Dr. Martha M. Eliot, Chief, Children's Bureau, U.S. Federal Security Agency; Dr. Peter Neubauer, Director, Council Child Development Center, New York City; Mrs. A.P. Schoolman, Co-chairman, Youth Management Committee, Jewish Agency, Jerusalem; Semah C. Hyman, Economic Attache, Embassy of Israel; Mrs. Gershon Agron, Chairman of the Hadassah Council in Israel, of Jerusalem; Dr. Harry Grundfest, Associate Professor Neurology, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons and Dr. Jacob Fine, Professor of Surgery, Harvard University Medical School.

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