

Radio Script - 5 minutes

This is Senator Humphrey speaking....

Since my last report to you from overseas, I have visited in both Greece and Spain to wind up my tour of the Middle East and Mediterranean area and arrived back home in Washington, D.C.

I want to tell you something about my impressions and observations in Greece and Spain.

In both countries, food -- American food -- is urgently needed, ~~and the most useful form of economic assistance we can provide.~~ In both countries I made personal observation tours of food distribution programs carried on by American voluntary agencies, such as CARE and the National Catholic Welfare Conference. I saw with my own eyes what these programs mean to youngsters and adults alike, and how grateful they are to the generosity of American people sharing their abundance with them.

I wish many of you could have been with me as I toured an orphanage in Greece where eager youngsters, deprived of

parents in Greece's struggle first against totalitarianism of Mussolini and Hitler and next against Communism, are being given vocational education to prepare them to be self-supporting. It was indeed a thrill to find the labels of Minnesota dairies on barrels of dry milk powder that is helping to keep these children alive and healthy.

Greece needs more food, both for the CARE program, and for purchase with Greek money under our Public Law 480. It has asked us for more food, and they are still waiting for an answer.

We depend upon Greece as a vital military ally under our NATO alliance against Communism. Greece is our friend, proven over and over. Yet Greece must have food for its friendly government to survive. How can we ignore their appeal? How can we go on telling farmers not to produce, when there are friends in need of such production overseas?

The same story was repeated in Spain.

Whether we like the Spanish government or not, the Spanish people are human beings. Our hope for the future is to have those people understand America and Americans, and know the real spirit of humanitarianism that exists among us.

We are pouring millions into Spain building air bases upon which we are staking much of our defense hopes if worse comes to worse and world war III ever occurs.

Yet those bases are ~~useless to us~~ ^{jeopardized} unless ^{there is} we can maintain political and economic stability in Spain, ~~and make sure Spain~~ ^{It is a military} ~~welcomes American troops.~~ ^{necessity, that there be a close working} ~~friendly relationship between ourselves & the~~ ^{Spaniards.}

Spain is struggling against inflation, and our construction program with its vastly expanded employment would create serious food shortages unless we fill the gap with enough food to provide for the increased consumption being created.

Spain has had severe weather setbacks destroying its own crops. It is in serious financial difficulty. It wants to buy

American food, with Spanish money. Congress has authorized such sales, under Public Law 480. We have good uses for the Spanish money we obtain, in paying for our military construction projects. Unless we use Spanish money gained from our food sales, we have to use American dollars out of our treasury. Yet for more than three months Spain has been trying in vain to get our government to sell it 500,000 tons of wheat, and 30,000 tons of soybean oil.

The situation is now serious. ~~Currently Spain is in dire need for 500,000 tons of wheat before June 30 in order to prevent bread rationing.~~ It is the considered view of the American Embassy that if Spain does not have immediate recourse to wheat imports under Public Law 480, serious consequences to the U. S. interest in Spain might well be in the offing. Failure to obtain wheat might boost the cost-of-living sufficiently to intensify existing inflationary pressures at a time when there is some hope

of the adoption of an economic stabilization program. It is simply foolish for us to shut our eyes to the need.

I have returned home convinced that food is ^a ~~the most~~
 ~~vital~~ ^{instrument in} our country's fight for freedom in the world. It is more important than dollars. How much longer can we ignore the role food can play in fighting communism? How much longer can we complain at home about having too much food while our friends in other lands are going hungry?

It is time for a serious reappraisal of our entire farm program in the light of our foreign policy needs. It is time to make wiser use of our potential abundance, instead of insisting that farmers stop producing.

That is one lesson deeply impressed upon me during my tour -- a lesson all the more deeply imbedded when I stood on the hillside at Gallilee where Christ distributed the loaves and fishes, and gave the Sermon on the Mount. Perhaps we need to turn

back to the Bible, to find a sounder basis for both our farm
policy and our foreign policy today.

May 22, 1957

Radio Script - Roundup - 15 minutes

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey speaking....

I have just returned from an intensive ~~though hurried~~ *and extensive*

trip through the troubled Middle East, and neighboring countries

As chair of the Sub Comm on Near East & this trip
on the Mediterranean, ~~as~~ *it was a* part of my responsibilities ~~for the~~ *as a member*

Senate's Foreign Relations Committee.

Because the tour made some deep impressions upon me, I
want to share them with my fellow Minnesotans.

It was a tour covering areas where civilizations of the
past have come and gone, where the great inspirational settings
of biblical history are located, and where much of the unrest
and trouble in the world today is occurring.

Let me take you on a thumbnail version of our tour,
before commenting further on some of my conclusions.

We visited the beautiful and inspiring city of Rome in
Italy, saw at first hand the wonderful recovery *&* progress Italy
has made since the war under the helping hand of American

friendship and the original Marshall plan. ^{I have} ~~and~~ had ~~an~~ opportunity to learn from Italians themselves the deep ties of friendship which have been created for the United States. We visited the southern European NATO headquarters at Naples, and had a thorough briefing on what was being done under this great alliance to build a shield of strength against Communism so that we would have more time to build economic and political strength in crucial areas of the world.

We visited with Dr. Sen of India, director general of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization with headquarters in Rome, discussing our efforts for international cooperation toward establishment of national food reserves in food deficit areas of the world -- a subject in which Dr. Sen shares our keen interest.

We flew into Egypt, and saw progress and slums side by side -- saw the tragedy of mass hunger and deprivation in crowded

areas of old Cairo, yet saw efforts being made to improve the situation out in the villages through ^{for} building of schools, hospitals, and community wells. We saw a country that felt compelled to turn to the Soviet Union for food -- because we had turned them down. We learned with a sickening heart that CARE had been compelled to cut down its school lunch program from feeding 2,900,000 daily, to only 100,000 -- because we have quit sending the food that is so urgently needed.

We went on to the beautiful country of Lebanon, which is such a stable balance in the Middle East -- a country half Christian, half ~~Arab~~ ^{Muslim}, where one of the great cultural influences is the American University in Beirut. Yet here we saw tragedy too, for we visited Palestinian refugee camps where children have known no other home for ten years.

From Lebanon we motored across an armed "no man's land" into Israel, and spent a Sunday in the Hills of ^{Galilee} ~~Judea~~, on the

shores of the ^{leaf}Galilee, and in visiting the ^{Holy}shrines of Nazareth.

It is a deep emotional experience to walk on the very land where ~~Christ~~ ^{Jesus} lived and taught the lessons that mankind needs so ^{much} ~~seriously~~ today.

We saw the remarkable job of reclaiming the rocky land being carried out so courageously by the immigrants from 70 different countries making up this young and dedicated nation ^{of Israel}. What may turn out to be the most crucial problem Israel faces is not its borders, not ~~its~~ its relations with its Arab neighbors, but the task of absorbing a renewed stream of immigrants. We saw the great southern desert, the Negev, which Israel hopes to eventually irrigate to provide ^{new lands for} for its people. We saw the spirit of these people in a tremendous Independence Day celebration, during which Russian military equipment captured from the Egyptians was proudly displayed.

We visited both the new and old cities of Jerusalem, crossing

Youth-Spirit

the armed border into the Jordanese sector and visiting sites and shrines equally holy to the Christian, Jewish, and Moslem faiths.

We flew on to that great center of past culture and civilization -- Greece, where a hardy people today stand as firm friends to America and the free world.

Greece is perhaps the best exhibit we have of how America can and does cooperate and not dominate -- a living example of the effectiveness of our foreign aid program in enabling a struggling country to stand firmly against the pressures and threats of Communist aggression. One of the great tragedies of Greece is the fact that nearly one third of its children are orphans; it is heartening to know that our great voluntary American organization of CARE is doing an outstanding job among these youngsters, yet it is tremendously handicapped and having to cut down its program of feeding children because we are not providing the necessary food in spite of our abundance.

Need tools -

Our tour wound up in Madrid, ^{Spain} with a visit to our great new air bases in Spain and a study of the economic problems confronting Spain. Again, food is the pressing need -- food to avoid actual hunger, and to avert disastrous inflation. It is to our own self-interest to provide it, for the economic stability of the country in which we are investing millions in military bases *is not stable -*

Throughout our tour we met with chiefs of state and foreign ministers of each country, and other cabinet members; we conferred with our own career diplomats, real soldiers of peace. We met with American businessmen in each country to obtain the benefit of their experience and judgment. We went to the people themselves, out on the highways and byways, to gain a true perspective of conditions and attitudes.

There is no simple answer to the multitude of complex problems confronting this area, but there are some obvious

Good!

For. Service

conclusions that are readily apparent.

Perhaps they boil down to these three most pressing
needs:

First, food.

Capital - Educ - Health
Second, water.

Third, patience.

The need for food is so urgent everywhere that it was almost heartbreaking to know that back home in Minnesota, our farm people were being told to quit producing -- that they had already produced too much. Perhaps our struggling farmers will at least have some satisfaction out of knowing that Minnesota powdered milk, cheese, and wheat are keeping thousands of people alive in the Middle East. I know -- I saw it for myself, and saw the Minnesota labels on the shipping containers. One of the most effective forces for American good will we encountered was the wonderful humanitarian work being done by our great

voluntary agencies, including our church groups, in making good use of contributed American dollars to finance the personnel for distributing directly to needy people surplus American food products made available by our government. Unfortunately, the amounts of food made available are all too often too little and too late -- far more is needed, and needed at once.

The other great contribution to the struggling economies of these areas is the export policy for American farm commodities under Public Law 480, which permits sale of our farm products for foreign currencies, and then uses those currencies for economic development and assistance loans to the countries buying our goods. Make no mistake -- this is the framework of a foreign economic policy that right now has a tremendous impact on our entire foreign policy. Without it, many countries would be in serious trouble. It is no giveaway program -- our farm products are being purchased. They do not have American dollars to buy,

so they are buying in their own currencies. We are loaning them the currency for necessary capital improvements and economic developments to help their own people -- carrying forward our own foreign aid objectives, yet drawing 4% interest on bonafide development loans. And we have plenty of uses of our own for this foreign currency as it is repaid, meeting our own military and diplomatic obligations abroad, and helping finance American business enterprises.

It has become obvious that there is too little understanding at home that this Public Law 480 program is far more than just a surplus disposal program. It is the heart and core of a foreign economic policy that can help meet our foreign policy commitments at less dollar cost, while helping bolster farm prices at home. It offers the framework for a better farm policy, as well as a better foreign aid policy. It is easier to produce food and fiber than dollars, and it is food and fiber that other countries

want and need. American business, too, is finding out that by allowing other countries to meet their food needs in their own currencies, they ^{countries} are able to spend more of their limited foreign ^(dollars) exchange for industrial goods ^{which} they need from our country. Everyone is benefitting, from a program being charged off against the farmer as "surplus disposal". We need this program continued and expanded, but we need its benefits understood. It is in everyone's interest, not just the farmer's.

Next pressing problem of the Middle East is water. Along with food, and related to it, ^{water} ~~it~~ is a serious economic problem that is involved in many political problems of the area. There is a genuine awakening in the area, and a desire in most quarters to provide far more constructively for the needs of their own people. But water needs must be overcome.

When one flies low over the Nile Delta of Egypt, for example, and sees the absolute contrast between land which is

irrigated and land which is not, he more fully understands the enormous pressure in Egypt for the Aswan High Dam which could greatly increase the irrigated area. When one sees the desolate Negev, the great southern desert of Israel, and when one learns that Israel expects 100,000 immigrants this year, he better understands why the Israelies are so insistent on irrigation of the Negev. The care and use of water is an ever-present topic of conversation.

Although one usually thinks of oil in connection with the Middle East, the fact is that water is at least as important as oil, if not more so. Water is no respecter of international boundaries. The Nile, the Jordan, and the Tigris-Euphrates are all international rivers, and if maximum use is to be made of their waters, it must be done under some kind of international arrangement. It is time we give more attention to the possibility of some form of a regional development agency, established under

under the United Nations but operating independently through representatives of the various interests concerned.

Finally, there is need for patience and understanding.

There is no room for American arrogance in the Middle East. We can not do everything alone. We need and must use friends in the area -- we need the help and guidance of Greece and Italy, in working with the Arabs; we must encourage the Arabs to settle some of their own differences, and concentrate more on working for the benefit of their own people instead of engaging in international intrigue.

The pressing economic problems seem to far overshadow the threat of Communism in the area. People understand hunger far more readily than they understand the difference in political ideology. But we must never forget that the Soviet is alert to taking advantage of the *frustrations and yearnings of people in need.*

One gains a new perspective of time in touring the Middle

East, and standing on the ruins of old civilizations. You can not visit the ruins of Pompei, see the Pyramids and tombs of the Pharaohs, ^{visit the site of Solomon's temple,} walk through the Accropolis in Athens, or the remains of civilization of many ancient periods at Bylbos in Lebanon without learning a lesson in patience. It is going to take time to solve many of the pressing political problems, time and understanding. Governments may come and go, but the great masses of people will remain. We need their understanding and friendship. We need them to know the real spirit of America, the spirit that enabled us to carve a great nation out of the wilderness in our pioneering days, just as Israel is doing today in many areas.

I have returned home determined to dedicate my energies to making more effective use of our potential to produce food in abundance as a vital instrument of foreign policy, an essential tool for peace and freedom. And I have returned with greater

respect for our civilian soldiers of peace throughout the world -- our foreign service personnel, our missionaries, and educators in universities throughout the Middle East, and our humanitarian workers in our philanthropic and voluntary agencies. They depict the real American spirit, and give meaning to America's humanitarian motives.

When we see what we have at home, and see the hardship others are facing, we should be ashamed to selfishly turn a deaf ear to those who want us to share our abundance with them -- especially when they in turn are willing to share with us the responsibility for keeping the fires of freedom alive.

May 22, 1957



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