

Excerpts of Remarks
Prepared for Delivery by
Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey (D)
Minnesota
Before the National Council
of Jewish Women
Tuesday Night, March 10
Washington, D. C.

SENATOR HUMPHREY URGES FULLEST USE OF ISRAELI MEDICAL LEADERSHIP IN
DEVELOPING AREAS;

SAYS AFRICAN RIOTS REQUIRE "MEDICINE AND FREEDOM, NOT MACHINE GUNS AND
OPPRESSION"

I would like to talk to you this evening about peace and specifically,
works of peace.

This is a subject dear to all mankind.

But it is a subject especially close to the hearts of the Jewish people,
a people whose very word of greeting is "Shalom" - peace.

Yours is a people which, unhappily, throughout much of its ancient history,
has known NOT peace, for which it prayed, but rather persecution and violence
and invasion.

Yet, it is your people which first gave to mankind the principles of human
brotherhood and the Fatherhood of God, the 10 Commandments which are the bed-
rock of our entire heritage.

It is your people which gave to mankind the concept of

"beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks."

A NEW VERSION OF "SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES"

Tonight, I shall speak principally of beating metal and plastic into
incubators for premature babies and into oxygen tents and hypodermic needles
and iron lungs and into other medical supplies and equipment of mercy.

My theme is Health for Peace, Health for Brotherhood, Health for Freedom.

Peace is, as we know, built upon constructive deeds. That is why I have
been speaking across this land on behalf of solid works of peace. I mean
schools for peace - capital aid for peace - food for peace - and health for
peace.

HELICOPTERS AND SHIPS FOR HEALTH

For example, I have long envisioned that the United States should send
mobile medical teams into the remote hinterlands of nations which have never
seen a doctor to bring the healing power of modern medicine.

Let us use every means of transport that is available - whether it be jeep,
or pack-mule, or helicopter. Let us use a "great white fleet of mercy" to visit
the major ports of developing areas of the world; but let us not forget the
remote areas where there is even greater need - the jungles, the deserts, the
mountains.

Let us not go in for "one shot" gestures; but rather let us build solid, enduring foundations for clinics and hospitals and maternal and child health centers. Let us have pilot projects - demonstration projects which train and teach and which "take hold."

OUR SENATE WORLD HEALTH STUDY

As you know, it is my privilege to serve as Chairman of a Senate Subcommittee which is making a Study of International Health. We have invited judgment of the great medical leaders of the world.

Included in the responses have been many messages from outstanding medical leaders of Israel, including of course from the famed Weizmann Institute and other facilities.

Israel has, as you know, perhaps the greatest and most favorable ratio of doctors to population anywhere in the world. It has a reservoir of scientific talent which is proportionately unmatched in almost any other country.

I know that Israel is going to play a great role, therefore, in expanding international medical research. Expansion of research was my topic in testifying this very morning on Senator Lister Hill's farsighted bill to create a new International Institute of Medical Research. I know, too, that in the International Public Health and Medical Research Year, commencing in mid-1961, Israel can become a great radiating center of health works of peace.

SEPTEMBER, 1959 CANCER MEETING IN ISRAEL

Let me cite a specific illustration. In September of this year, there will be held an International Symposium on Cancer Causation. The International Union Against Cancer has an International Cancer Research Commission which is the sponsor of this meeting. This Commission selected the Weizmann Institute as the site for the symposium. Eleven countries will be represented, including: Canada, Great Britain, France, Finland, India, West Germany, Holland, New Zealand, the U.S.S.R., Israel and ourselves.

A moving figure in the plans for the symposium is the distinguished head of the Experimental Biology Department of the Institute, Professor Issac Berenblum.

I cite this symposium as one excellent illustration of what the United States and Israel can and should do to multiply the works of peace.

Here in the United States, cancer wipes out a quarter of a million lives a year. In the Soviet Union, as I pointed out in Moscow to the Soviet authorities in December, 1958, another quarter of a million lives are snuffed out by cancer. In the State of Israel, a somewhat proportionate toll is taken. And the Arab States as well, are hardly immune to cancer.

What I am saying, in effect, is that Israel can spearhead international medical research !

It can also spearhead international medical assistance. Why? Because it is one of the few nations which has a relative surplus of doctors which it can make available to other less fortunate countries.

You are all familiar with Israel's Technical Assistance Program which is already under way - ranging from its agricultural help to Burma, to its maritime help to Ghana.

I would like to see Israel's medical technicians working throughout the developing world. And I envision the day when its medical knowhow will become available throughout the Arab countries as well. You and I are aware that today the /Arab population within Israel receives the benefit of Israel's high^{health}/standards. This should become just as true within the Arab countries themselves.

But this is more than a matter for Israel itself; it is a matter for action throughout the free world.

PHILANTHROPIC TRADITION IN JEWISH FAITH

Welfare work is a special tradition of the Jewish people and of Jewish women, in particular.

I need not remind you of the hundreds of hospitals, homes for the aged, organizations for the orphaned, for the blind which Americans of Jewish faith, yes, which you of this audience serve in your respective communities.

The dedication to philanthropy is a deep tradition among your people, and I say that the world is in great need of further like-minded efforts among all faiths.

From the standpoint of American-foreign policy, however, it is absolutely essential that we make available more of the scientific - medical - educational talent from the free countries to the underdeveloped world.

You and I read each day of riots sweeping Africa - Nyasaland, the Belgian Congo and other areas.

The answer to riots and rioteers is not clubs and police; the answer is HOUSING AND DOCTORS AND SCHOOLS AND JOBS AND EQUALITY AND BASICALLY FREEDOM.

I want the United States Government to help make available this answer to Africa and South Asia. This is the high purpose unto which I call you and all men and women of good will.

HOW TO AVOID MORE DYNAMITE IN AFRICA

Colonial Africa will explode in more violence unless the fuse is put out and unless the TNT of bitterness and frustration and fear are converted into a new and more stable type "chemical".

I refer to the chemistry of hope and growth and fulfillment and pride. This is the chemistry from which will come not explosions but peaceful development and building.

I point out, therefore, to the Colonial Powers that they MAY keep the lid on TEMPORARILY if they fly in more armed troops and tear gas and if they fly out into exile more native leaders.

But this is not the answer of statemanship. It is not a permanent answer, nor one compatible with the Judao-Christian heritage.

Colonial Africa needs more Point 4, not point-blank fire of water hoses or rifles. It needs additional responsible leaders, and not to be deprived of the few native leaders which it already has.

It needs the spirit of Tom Jefferson and Abe Lincoln and Chaim Weizmann -- builders, creators, men of uplift and inspiration, not overseers of down-grading and repression.

This, then, is the challenge to the United States and to all like-minded nations.

#

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
1313 Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday A.M.'s
March 11, 1959

SENATOR HUMPHREY CALLS FOR FOREIGN POLICY OF BOTH "SUBSTANCE AND DRAMA"

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) said last night that "American foreign policy must not only develop more substance and vitality, but it must have more dramatic impact," citing, as an example of what can be done, a proposal for an American White Fleet of mercy ships.

"Even as we demonstrate to the world that we are utterly determined to resist Communist aggression, in this latest Soviet-precipitated crisis," Senator Humphrey declared, "we must be alert to the opportunities to wage peace -- consistently, vigorously and dramatically."

"We must constantly seek to express the American dedication to people, peace and progress throughout the world -- not only in the words of peace, but in the very deeds and works of peace!" he told the Council of Jewish Women in Washington.

"As an example of a way by which we could forcefully underline a constructive American foreign policy founded on health and education and food for peace," he said, "we could develop with a small expenditure of funds a new American White Fleet of hospital ships and disaster relief vessels -- as a dramatic symbol of American intentions and American concern with the well-being of other peoples."

Senator Humphrey announced that he will shortly introduce legislation to provide two such "White Fleet task groups" of presently moth-balled U.S. Navy ships -- designed to be operated partially by Government and partially by voluntary agencies -- as disaster relief and technical assistance units along the coasts of Africa and Asia.

"For a maximum cost of between \$10 million and \$15 million per year," he estimated, "the United States could provide effective -- and vivid, easily recognized -- relief to coastal areas which are the victim of earthquake, flood, hurricane, famine or disease epidemics; and in between they could carry on a dramatic program of medical and public health training and technical assistance."

"Each of these White Fleet task groups -- composed perhaps of one 800-bed hospital ship, two cargo vessels for emergency supplies and food, and a converted electrical power ship, could throw into an emergency situation 800 to 1000 hospital beds, operating facilities and laboratories, power for a good-sized city, and emergency rations for 300,000 people for a full week," Senator Humphrey said.

Pointing out that an earlier American White Fleet had been used by President Theodore Roosevelt to dramatize to the world the emergence of the United States as a world power, Senator Humphrey declared, "A White Fleet of mercy, armed with food, clothing, and medicine, literally stretching out the hand of friendship and compassion to other peoples, would do more to bring home to the peoples of Asia and Africa the real spirit of the American people than ten years of broadcasting of American good intentions!"

Senator Humphrey stressed that American foreign policy must "recapture the initiative," and that it must be re-oriented to make better use of America's natural advantages.

"With our magnificent food and fiber production in a hungry world," he said, "with our leadership in medicine in a world filled with disease and suffering, we are in a magnificent position to spearhead an international drive to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and to teach the ignorant."

More

- 2 -

SENATOR HUMPHREY CALLS FOR FOREIGN POLICY OF BOTH "SUBSTANCE AND DIGNITY"

"The works of peace -- Food for Peace, Health for Peace, Education for Peace, Science for Peace -- ought to be as conspicuous in American foreign policy as the Washington monument in our capital city!" Senator Humphrey declared. "We must hammer away on this theme unrelentingly -- and develop a whole series of specific, concrete programs to implement -- generalities are not enough!"

Senator Humphrey predicted that the Senate would shortly take favorable action on one such concrete program -- the proposal by Senator Lister Hill (D., Ala.), Senator Humphrey and others, to establish an International Medical Research Institute.

"Here again," he said, "is an example of constructive programming, with dramatic impact -- the kind of action and program that cannot be discounted or effectively disparaged by the most virulent Communist propaganda attacks."

Senator Humphrey, whose subcommittee is conducting a searching study of international medical research, told the Council of Jewish Women that the "outstanding progress" of health and medicine in Israel was one of the great achievements of the Jewish culture -- "a vivid example of what can be done through the works of peace, a dramatic beacon light to encourage similar achievement throughout Asia and Africa."

- 30 -

Senator Humphrey announced that he will shortly introduce legislation to provide two "White Fleet" groups of presently moth-balled U.S. Navy ships -- designed to be operated partially by Government and partially by voluntary agencies -- as disaster relief and technical assistance units along the coasts of Africa and Asia.

"For a maximum cost of between \$10 million and \$15 million per year," he estimated, "the United States could provide effective -- and vivid, easily recognized -- relief to coastal areas which are the victims of earthquakes, flood, drought, famine or disease epidemics; and in between they could carry on a dramatic program of medical and public health training and technical assistance."

"Each of these White Fleet task groups -- composed perhaps of one 600-bed hospital ship, two cargo vessels for emergency supplies and food, and a converted electrical power ship, could throw into an emergency situation 600 to 1000 hospital beds, operating facilities and laboratories, power for a good-sized city, and emergency rations for 300,000 people for a full week," Senator Humphrey said.

Pointing out that an earlier American White Fleet had been used by President Theodore Roosevelt to dramatize to the world the emergence of the United States as a world power, Senator Humphrey declared, "A White Fleet of mercy, aimed with food, clothing, and medicine, literally stretching out the hand of friendship and compassion to other peoples, would do more to bring home to the peoples of Asia and Africa the real spirit of the American people than ten years of broadcasting of American good intentions!"

Senator Humphrey stressed that American foreign policy must "recapture the initiative," and that it must be re-oriented to make better use of America's natural advantages.

"With our magnificent food and fiber production in a hungry world," he said, "with our leadership in medicine in a world filled with disease and suffering, we are in a magnificent position to spearhead an international drive to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and to teach the ignorant."

Excerpts of Remarks by
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Before the
National Council of Jewish Women
Tuesday, March 10, 1959
Washington, D.C.

Even as we demonstrate to the world that we are utterly determined to resist Communist aggression, in this latest Soviet-precipitated crisis over Berlin we must be alert to the opportunities to wage peace -- consistently, vigorously and dramatically.

We must constantly seek to express the American dedication to people, peace and progress throughout the world -- not only in the words of peace, but in the very deeds and works of peace.

American foreign policy must recapture the initiative. And it must be re-oriented to make better use of America's natural advantages.

With our magnificent food and fiber production in a hungry world, with our leadership in medicine in a world filled

with disease and suffering, we are in a magnificent position to spearhead an international drive to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and to teach the illiterate.

The Works of Peace

Food for Peace

Health for Peace

Education for Peace

Science for Peace

Atoms for Peace

The Works of Peace ought to be as conspicuous in American foreign policy as the Washington Monument in our capital city.

We must hammer away on this theme unrelentingly -- and develop a whole series of specific, concrete programs to implement -- generalities are not enough.

The Senate will shortly take favorable action on one such concrete program -- the proposal by Lister Hill, myself and others to establish an International Medical Research Institute.

Here again is an example of constructive programming, with dramatic impact -- the kind of action and program that can not be effectively disparaged or destroyed by the most virulent communist propaganda attacks.

As another example of how we could dramatically underline a constructive American foreign policy founded on health and education and food for peace, we could develop with a small expenditure of funds a new American White Fleet of hospital ships and disaster relief vessels -- as a dramatic symbol of American intentions and American concern with the well-being of other peoples.

I intend shortly to introduce legislation to provide two

such "White Fleet task groups" of presently moth-balled U. S. Navy ships --designed to be operated partially by Government and partially by voluntary agencies -- as disaster relief and technical assistance units along the coasts of Africa and Asia.

For a maximum cost of between \$10 million and \$15 million per year, the United States could provide effective -- and vivid, easily recognized -- relief to coastal areas which are the victim of earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, famine or disease epidemics; and in between they could carry on a dramatic program of medical and public health training and technical assistance.

Each of these White Fleet task groups -- composed perhaps of one 800-bed hospital ship, two cargo vessels for emergency supplies and food, and a converted electrical power ship, could throw into an emergency situation 800 to 1000 hospital beds, operating facilities and laboratories, power for a good-sized city, and emergency rations for 300,000 to 500,000 people for a full week.

An earlier American White Fleet was used by President Theodore Roosevelt to dramatize to the world the emergence of the United States as a world power. Today a White Fleet of mercy, armed with food, clothing and medicine, literally stretching out the hand of friendship and compassion to other peoples, would do more to bring home to the peoples of Asia and Africa the real spirit of the American people than ten years of broadcasting of American good intentions.

Outstanding progress of health and medicine in Israel is one of the great achievements of the Jewish culture -- a vivid example of what can be done through the works of peace, a dramatic beacon light to encourage similar achievement throughout Asia and Africa.

Our Senate World Health Study

As you know, it is my privilege to serve as Chairman of a Senate Subcommittee which is making a study of International Health. We have invited judgment of the great medical leaders

of the world.

Included in the responses have been many messages from outstanding medical leaders of Israel, including, of course, from the famed Weizmann Institute and other facilities.

Israel has, as you know, perhaps the greatest and most favorable ratio of doctors to population anywhere in the world. It has a reservoir of scientific talent which is proportionately unmatched in almost any other country.

I know that Israel is going to play a great role, therefore, in expanding international medical research. Expansion of research was my topic in testifying this very morning on our farsighted bill to create a new International Institute of Medical Research. I know, too, that in the International Public Health and Medical Research Year, commencing in mid-1961, Israel can become a great radiating center of health works of peace.

September, 1959 Cancer Meeting in Israel

Let me cite a specific illustration. In September of this year, there will be held an International Symposium on Cancer Causation. The International Union Against Cancer has an International Cancer Research Commission which is the sponsor of this meeting. This Commission selected the Weizmann Institute as the site for the symposium. Eleven countries will be represented, including: Canada, Great Britain, France, Finland, India, West Germany, Holland, New Zealand, the U.S.S.R, Israel, and ourselves.

A moving figure in the plans for the symposium is the distinguished head of the Experimental Biology Department of the Institute, Professor Issac Berenblum.

I cite this symposium as one excellent illustration of what the United States and Israel can and should do to multiply the works of peace.

Here in the United States, cancer wipes out a quarter of a million lives a year. In the Soviet Union, as I pointed out in Moscow to the Soviet authorities in December, 1958, another quarter of a million lives are snuffed out by cancer. In the State of Israel, a somewhat proportionate toll is taken. And the Arab States as well, are hardly immune to cancer.

What I am saying, in effect, is that Israel can spearhead international medical research!

It can also spearhead international medical assistance. Why? Because it is one of the few nations which has a relative surplus of doctors which it can make available to other less fortunate countries.

You are all familiar with Israel's Technical Assistance Program which is already under way - ranging from its agricultural help to Burma, to its maritime help to Ghana.

I would like to see Israel's medical technicians working throughout the developing world. And I envision the day when its medical knowhow will become available throughout the Arab countries as well. You and I are aware that today the Arab population within Israel receives the benefit of Israel's high health standards. This should become just as true within the Arab countries themselves.

But this is more than a matter for Israel itself; it is a matter for action throughout the free world.

Philanthropic Tradition in Jewish Faith

Welfare work is a special tradition of the Jewish people and of Jewish women, in particular.

I need not remind you of the hundreds of hospitals, homes for the aged, organizations for the orphaned, for the blind which Americans of Jewish faith, yes, which you of this audience serve in your respective communities.

The dedication to philanthropy is a deep tradition among the Jewish people, and I say that the world is in great need of further like-minded efforts among all faiths.

From the standpoint of American foreign policy, however, it is absolutely essential that we make available more of the scientific - medical - educational talent from the free countries to the underdeveloped world.

You and I read each day of riots sweeping Africa -- Nyasaland, the Belgian Congo and other areas.

The answer to riots and rioteers is not clubs and police; the answer is HOUSING AND DOCTORS AND SCHOOLS AND JOBS AND EQUALITY AND BASICALLY FREEDOM.

I want the United States Government to help make available this answer to Africa and South Asia.

How to Avoid More Dynamite in Africa

Colonial Africa will explode in more violence unless the fuse is put out and unless the TNT of bitterness and

frustration and fear are converted into a new and more stable type "chemical".

I refer to the chemistry of hope and growth, fulfillment and pride. This is the social chemistry from which will come not explosions, but peaceful development and building.

I point out therefore, to the Colonial Powers that they MAY keep the lid on TEMPORARILY if they fly in more armed troops and tear gas and if they fly out into exile more native leaders.

But this is not the answer of statesmanship. It is not a permanent answer, nor one compatible with the Judao-Christian heritage.

Colonial Africa needs more Point 4, not pdnt-blank fire of water hoses or rifles. It needs additional responsible leaders, and not to be deprived of the few native leaders which it already has.

It needs the spirit of Tom Jefferson and Abe Lincoln and Chaim Weizmann -- builders, creators, men of uplift and inspiration, not overseers of down-grading and repression.

This, then, is the challenge to the United States and to all like-minded nations.



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