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UNITED STATES, ISRAEL AND THE WORLD CRISIS

Excerpts from remarks prepared for delivery by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) at Jewish National Fund dinner honoring Judge Abraham Marowitz, Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, Wednesday night, April 1, 1959.

In the past three months the American people have focused their attention on the Berlin crisis, almost to the exclusion of any other international problem. This preoccupation with Berlin is understandable, but it can be dangerous. It can be dangerous because that divided city is not the only potential source of open international conflict.

↳ The war which nobody wants could be sparked in Berlin.

It could also start in Quemoy or Baghdad.

↳ The delicate Berlin situation is the most serious crisis we have faced since the Korean War, and potentially the most serious Communist challenge since the end of World War II.

↳ But it is not the only crisis.

The crisis in the Formosan Strait, although relatively

quiet at the moment, is also full of danger. And matters are  
boiling up again in the turbulent Middle East. Iraq, our former  
ally, has renounced her membership in the Baghdad Pact. And  
what is more important, it looks as though this important  
Middle Eastern country may be slipping from the twilight zone  
of neutralism into the <sup>midnight</sup> ~~sharp~~ darkness of Communism.

I do not want to be in a position of predicting the future  
course of events in Iraq, but I think it is fair to describe  
the situation there as dangerous. Among the other potentially  
explosive situations in the Middle East are the smouldering  
struggle between the Arab states and Israel and the vexing  
problem of almost one million homeless Arab refugees.

In short, <sup>we are</sup> ~~the United States is~~ confronted with the  
possibility of a three-headed crisis -- in Germany, in the  
Formosan Strait, and in the Middle East. This raises two  
serious questions: First, are we really prepared to meet a

determined adversary on three fronts simultaneously? Second,

if we are not, what should we do to become better prepared?

Berlin alone may test us to the limit. Many military specialists ~~outside of Government as well as some inside the Administration~~ believe that the United States lacks sufficient strength in conventional weapons and manpower to support a strong posture of negotiation at the forthcoming foreign ministers and summit conferences, to say nothing of the capacity to deal with a less-than-nuclear show of force by the Russians if negotiations should fail.

*cut*

But this much we can say for the Berlin situation. We are entering into negotiations with the strength of a united Western position. We have the support of Britain, France, West Germany and our other NATO partners. Our present policy ~~toward the off-shore island groups~~ in the Formosan Strait enjoys no such united support. Our only ally there is Chiang Kai-Shek.

L Tonight, I want to focus my attention on the third potentially explosive situation -- the Middle East. I fear that our economic, political, and military policies are not adequate to a serious challenge in this area. Further, I do not think we are doing all we should do to improve our position.

L Consider the challenge and the stakes. The Soviet Union is engaging in a massive program of economic penetration into that strategic, oil-rich area. Her aim is not to foster economic development nor to encourage genuine national self determination. Her aim is to expel Western influence and to expand the Communist empire. Testimony submitted by the State Department in recent weeks shows that the U.S.S.R. is committed to lend Egypt and Syria, the United Arab Republic, a total of \$949 million in economic and military aid.

L Last week the Soviet Union announced economic aid to Iraq, totaling \$138 million. This is in addition to the \$120 million

in military aid previously disclosed.

The pattern is ominous. The Russians are clearly exploiting the Arab hostility toward Israel to achieve her political purposes in the Mediterranean world. (Truth - says Israel Capitalist state)

In the face of this, it is my firm conviction that the United States response has been less than adequate.

Our whole aid program has been inadequate. It does not meet the Communist threat. This is true not only because Congress has slashed authorizations and appropriations beyond the margin of safety; it is true also because the Administration failed to offer a large enough program to meet the needs in the first place.

I do not suggest that we should compete with the Russians in every country where they have established a ~~strong~~ foothold, regardless of the internal political situation.

If we compete wherever the Soviet Union offers an aid program we shall be letting Moscow decide how we shall deploy our aid.

If we did, the Russians might well tempt us into wasteful squander.

I do submit, however, that in countries where the people and government understand our objectives and are struggling

to attain political and economic freedom, we should be main-

taining and <sup>yes</sup> expanding our ~~aid~~ program of assistance & Cooperation

There are countries in Asia and Africa, like India and Israel, where the rule of law prevails and where democracy is cherished and preserved.

What happens in these countries is crucial for the free world. If these countries falter and fail, then other nations

in Asia and Africa may turn the Soviet way. ~~We must enlarge~~

<sup>to continue increase</sup> economic aid where our dollars work and fight for freedom.

Israel  
India

It is Sound Policy

This means an expansion of the Development Loan Fund, and more effective utilization of our surplus foods; and it also means grant assistance under certain special circumstances.

I do not need to tell this audience how important it is to maintain our program for Israel. In 1951 I was one of the 36 Senator who joined in sponsoring legislation in the Senate calling for a grant for Israel.

At that time Israel was struggling to resettle hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from the displaced persons camps in Europe and from the Arab countries in Asia and Africa.

The Congress provided \$63 million as a grant to help Israel meet a tremendous crisis created by her own humanitarian impluses.

In subsequent years the United States Government has continued aid to Israel, and we are glad to see her tremendous gains. She has tripled her population, absorbed newcomers from

all over the world, provided them with sanctuary, enabled them to work and prosper.

✓ This spectacular demonstration of how a government has been able to unite and fully employ the three major resources -- land, water and people -- is proving to be an inspiration to the new countries in Asia and Africa as well as to free countries in Europe and this Hemisphere. All of us have much to learn from modern Israel. She is serving the cause of democracy on a critical frontier. - a *quintally!*

✓ In recent years the United States aid program to Israel has changed. As she has made progress, our Government has enabled her to purchase surplus foods and has <sup>*loaned to*</sup> ~~lent~~ her money from the Development Loan Fund. The amount that we have been granting Israel has declined from a peak of \$70 million in 1953 to \$7 $\frac{1}{2}$  million in the current year.



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This may be an encouraging reflection of Israel's progress.

But I hope that we will continue ~~grant~~ aid to Israel as long  
as she needs it and can use it as creatively as she has in  
the past.

~~I say this because~~ the Administration has indicated that  
direct ~~grant~~ aid to Israel may now come to an end, and that

assistance to Israel will consist entirely of surplus foods.

In my judgment it would be ~~premature~~ <sup>a serious mistake</sup> to terminate ~~grant~~ <sup>economic</sup>

assistance to this democratic country at a time when she

still has massive economic problems growing out of her need to

resettle her vast new population, and to build a viable economy.

In addition, Israel stands alone in the area. She must

be able to defend herself. I noted a few moments ago the

massive aid the U.S.S.R. is pouring into Iraq, Egypt, and

Syria. The Soviet Union is extending this elaborate assistance

Suez Ship  
Canal  
Cairo Blockade

Protect this act of belligerency!

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to Israel's hostile Arab neighbors. On top of this the United States has been furnishing military aid to Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and until last July to Iraq.

Israel has not received a single penny of ~~any~~ military aid. Thus, it would be wrong from every standpoint to end our ~~any~~ economic aid to Israel now.

I hope the Administration will reconsider any such proposal if that is what is now in its mind.

I do not need to tell this audience what Israel's

development can mean, for you who were pioneers in the Jewish National Fund were the first to show the Near East how to reclaim barren and neglected lands.

You may take pride in the fact that you not only helped to restore the people of Israel to <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ ancient homeland, you may derive satisfaction from the significant fact that all over Asia and Africa today the story of Israel's challenging

only 1/5 of Israel under cultivation!

Land Reclamation  
JNF  
Population Expansion

74% of all Israeli Agric Production comes from JNF Land

Neger, Gadde, Judean Hills.

Hula Project - Jewish National Fund

Thousands of Acres  
60,000 Dunams!

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Water from  
the North  
to the Thirsty  
Land of the  
South

and exciting restoration is being told and is being emulated.

How gratifying it is to know that 70 countries of the world

have now recognized Israel, and that beyond the immediate

perimeter of Arab hostility and blockade there are peoples and

governments which share our own understanding of Israel's

restoration. Many of these countries have offered her

sympathy and cooperation.

Israel's growing acceptance in the fraternity of freedom

must be recognized eventually by <sup>her Arab neighbors</sup> ~~the hostile Arab rulers~~ who

~~surround~~ her and who still persist in blockade and belligerency.

I have always believed that an Arab-Israel peace will

come. It may take time, for the Near East is still tormented

and tortured by divisions and tensions. But the internal Arab

conflict that now disrupts the region is not an outgrowth of the

Arab-Israel tension. It arises from poverty and the inevitable

clash between the haves and the have-nots. Unfortunately,

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most of the Arabs are have-nots. They are the victims of  
frustration and are easily incited by demagogues who play  
upon their misery.

I hope that <sup>our</sup> ~~my~~ country will help the peoples of the Near

East to a better life. The answer to the Soviet Union is not

in arms, but economic development. We must do as much to  
help the people to utilize their water resources as we have  
done to find ~~them~~ <sup>then</sup> oil.

<sup>must</sup>  
~~Eventually~~, we ~~will~~ make it clear to these peoples

that we have no imperialist interest, and that our major objectives  
are to help friendly peoples befriend each other, work in  
cooperation and preserve their own independence and sovereignty.

Let no one in the Near East, whether he be a local ruler  
or a distant commissar deceive himself into believing that he  
can dominate this region and use these people to serve his  
own ambitions for power.

Health  
Educa  
Food  
Capital  
Technology

Let the peoples of the Middle East understand that each nation there is entitled to live its own life and a much fuller life than it leads today, free from the aggression and subversion of enemies, free in the evolution of its own destiny. Our policy in the Near East should continue to help the governments there maintain their political independence and at the same time expand the opportunities for economic development and cultural self-expression for their people.

When the peoples of the Near East come to understand that our policy serves their own best interests they will work with us to resolve conflicts, strengthen democracy and preserve peace.

April 1, 1959

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