

STATEMENT
OF
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

July 3, 1968

My position on Israel and the Middle East is clear. Ever since the creation of the State of Israel, which I enthusiastically supported -- both on moral and political grounds -- I have felt that a stable peace in the Middle East is a must.

There are six necessary elements for a permanent peace in the Middle East:

1. The existence of the State of Israel must be accepted by all its neighbors;
2. The fragile, often-violated truce lines must be transformed into agreed and secure boundaries;
3. The State of Israel must have free navigational rights in all international waters, including the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba;
4. The arms race, which breeds insecurity as it feeds on hostility, must be finally terminated;
5. The international community must assist the countries immediately concerned in solving the human tragedy posed by the Arab refugees;

6. The resources of the Middle East countries must be used primarily for human and economic development rather than war and destruction.

These views have been fortified by the experience of the June 1967 war.

I favor active United States diplomatic efforts to convince Israel's neighbors -- many of whom have been friends of this country for many years -- to pursue now a general settlement. It is in the interest of all the peoples of the Middle East to engage actively in negotiating an agreement among the nations in that region.

The cause of peace will not be served by the pursuit of military preponderance by Arab States through arms deliveries from the Soviet Union. Until permanent peace is achieved and the arms race ended, I believe continued U.S. military assistance, including jet planes, to Israel is justified and desirable. I favor it. But, the real answer lies in agreed disarmament.

The United States and other developed nations should actively support national and regional economic modernization programs, especially irrigation development and desalinization.

My views are motivated by a sense of justice and concern for all the inhabitants of a region that through the centuries has contributed so much to our own spiritual and philosophical development.



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