arin M. Dennis erbet Lehman om Farance which my live Danger, challenge, + uncertainty Burlin ABM Crisis in middle East U-S-USSR. - 4 Pawer Conference Jarring minin GDAYWAR - Harris Koly String String String Sudney Edin Trapsolier Schney Edin Hawyow Bureto Israel ? Atrom Davis When String - Developing - Soul Progress Agra, Yuning (solo)
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Many of you are aware that I have spoken at a number of UJA functions this year - indeed all over the country. Why? I am doing so and I am pleased to be here this evening because of my deep conviction that the work of the UJA is important for the strengthening of our country and is vital if peace is to be achieved in the Middle East, the Seviet Union. The achievement of peace and stability in that area is essential if we are to avoid World War III. The key to peace in the Middle East is the "staying power" of Israel - the ability to stay where they are until an atmosphere of negotiation and conciliation replaces the present tmosphere of war and conflict. Staying power is costly. It is a matter of great concern that the defense budget in Israel today is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than the defense budget in 1967. Think of what could be done with those funds - helping to build a prosperous Middle East, the desalinization of salt water, the irrigation of deserts, higher living standards that come from jobs, the improvement of health facilities - think of what could be done for all the peoples in the Middle East, Arab and Jew, if funds now used for war were used instead to improve the lot of mankind.

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Yet today Israel spends 20% of its entire Gross National Product on its defense budget - twice the comparable figure for the United States even though we have $\frac{1}{2}$ million Americans in Southeast Asia today.

This is an awful burden on Israel which, after all, is the representative and the symbol of world democracy in the Middle East

We learned a long time ago that our nation cannot live in isolation. The tradition of assisting the needy is a long and well established one with us. Our children, Jew and Christian alike, are brought up to contribute in their Sabbath schools to the underprivileged of the world. We like to think that our international commitments as a nation are similarly conceived and motivated. Our obligation is to share our strength and our resources wherever people or nations are in need.

The UJA is in that American tradition. The funds and the energy that you and I commit to the UJA are used not for war but for peace, not to destroy but to build, not to wound but to heal

- the old people's homes, housing those whose lives have been given to help build Israel, homes built with your funds.
- the young people in Israel who are educated with your funds.
- the recent immigrants to Israel from the Moslem countries and from behind the Iron Curtain who are transported to freedom and assimilated and absorbed into the free Israeli life with your funds.

Israels - Social + Welfor

- the unfortunate Jews still in Moslem and Iron Curtain countries who are fed and clothed with your funds.

Israel's social and welfare budget this year requires 365 million dollars. The UJA in this country has undertaken the responsibility of raising 270 million out of that sum - more than ever before.

It is these good works that you help to build that create the rudiments of peace and can perhaps lay the foundation for a Middle East community of Arab and Jew alike living side by side in a common effort to turn the desert into bloom.

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February 10, 1969

MEMORANDUM

For:

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From:

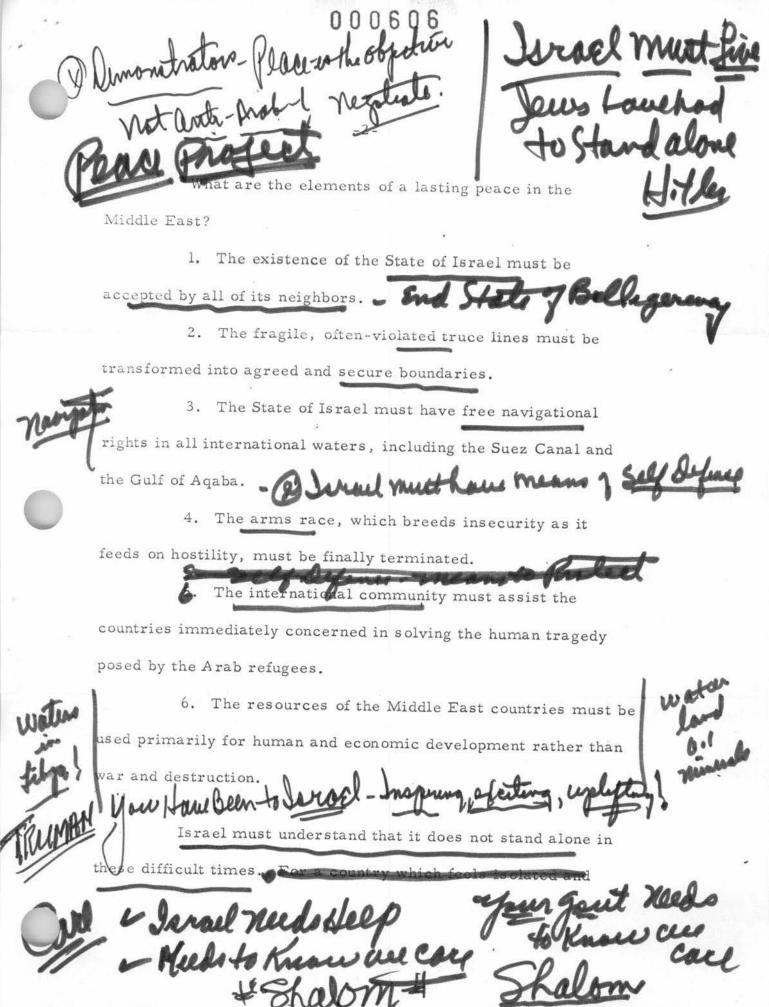
John G. Stewart

Subject:

UJA remarks, Baltimore, Maryland, February 16

The next few months are critical in the search for peace in the Middle East. There is, I believe, a growing awareness among many of the world's leaders that the Middle East situation cannot be permitted to rock along from crisis to crisis -- from atrocity to atrocity.

The United States will be exploring for workable solutions with Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union at the United Nations -- in support of the Secretary General's Representative, Gunnar Jarring. These informal conversations can be immensely important and every American -- regardless of party -- surely hopes they will be productive. Incidentally, Ambassador Charles Yost, a member during the campaign of the Humphrey-Muskie task force on international organizations, is a talented and skilled diplomat with extensive personal knowledge of the Middle East. He is ideally suited to pursue these initiatives with the other major powers.



abandoned is more likely to act irrationally than a country which conducts its affairs with quiet, self-confidence. We must tell the people of Israel that we care.

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