

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

District Grand Lodge No. 6

B'nai B'rith

Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 23, 1974

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you tonight to participate in your 106th Annual Convention.

The B'nai B'rith has a special place in my heart. I have known about the good work that this fine organization does for many, many years.

Your work is very special to me.

B'nai B'rith has done so much to foster Jewish identity in the United States. Your programs in the schools, colleges and universities of this nation have enabled young people to cherish and appreciate their Jewish heritage and culture.

I joined your effort -- your struggle to achieve your goals for Israel and for American Jews -- when I first came to Washington as a young Senator.

And I am proud to have had a small role in the history of a people long persecuted, but always persistent in their affirmation of human potential.

Proud, because there is a message in three thousand years of struggle and survival of the Jewish people as symbolized in the struggle of the state of Israel.

There is a message in the martyrdom and nameless victims of this struggle.

And the message is: That while people may be oppressed, the urge for freedom will persist undiminished.

This is the story of Israel.

This is the story of Jewish suffering and triumph.

Through the pages of Jewish history, the resolve of the Jewish people has been clear, and it is today.

In America, in Israel, in the Soviet Union, or anywhere else in the world, each generation of Jews has left its mark in the struggle for their own freedom as well as for the freedom of others.

It was only natural for American Jews to be in the forefront of the struggle for the civil rights of Black Americans.

It was only natural for the American Jewish Community and the B'nai B'rith to play a leading role in safeguarding the Constitutional rights -- the civil liberties -- of all minorities and all Americans.

So today when we discuss Israel and America we must also speak in terms of a shared struggle for human dignity and freedom.

Isaiah said:

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

The desert has been made fertile again.

A way has been made in the wilderness.

A people have grown strong and rich in spirit.

With God's help, with people yearning for freedom and with the aid of those around the world who believe in freedom, Israel has prospered and remained free and independent.

Those who have been associated with B'nai B'rith can look back with pride and a great sense of achievement. You have played an essential and lasting role in the foundation of the Jewish state.

But, today Israel faces two serious problems.

The first is remaining strong and independent.

The second is building a lasting peace with her neighbors.

It is clear that the October War took a heavy toll on Israel.

The mobilization of young men and women reduced economic productivity.

The cost of the war ran into the billions.

The loss of expensive military equipment meant that Israel would have to deplete its precious reserves of foreign currency to buy new weapons for its self-defense.

I am pleased that the United States came to the aid of Israel with supplemental military aid amounting to \$2.2 billion and that \$1 billion of that sum was in the form of grant assistance.

And I am happy that I was able to manage that vital legislation in the Senate.

This aid was badly needed to keep Israel strong and to maintain the balance of power and to convince the Arab world and the Soviet Union that we would not desert our friends.

Israel may need more assistance in order to preserve its economy and maintain its military strength.

We will soon be considering our foreign aid bill. I want to assure you that the Congress will take a very close look at the President's request for aid to Israel for this year. There are some very strong indications that the sum may be insufficient.

And while we are discussing the subject of foreign assistance, I want to repeat my position on two important current issues.

The President has requested that Congress authorize economic assistance to several Arab countries.

I would sharply question assistance to oil producing nations which have recently been enriched by the high prices they have charged the rest of the world for vitally needed fuel exports.

However, I approve of this aid where it is needed to help rebuild and develop what are essentially poor and underdeveloped nations.

It is in our humanitarian tradition to aid those in need.

It is important that we demonstrate our desire to re-establish normal relations with Egypt and other countries in the region.

It is basic to achieving lasting peace and to assuring Israel's security.

But I do not believe that the United States should grant economic assistance to Egypt until we have its assurance that ships of all nations -- including those flying the flag of Israel -- will be allowed passage through the Suez Canal.

And I do not believe that the United States should provide Egypt with nuclear reactors until the Congress is assured that there are adequate safeguards against the construction of atomic weapons from the nuclear materials in these reactors.

If there is one thing that is not needed in the Middle East it is a nuclear arms race.

Now, to return to the question of the Canal.

The right of free Israeli passage through the Canal is guaranteed under international law and international treaty.

But, Israel has never been granted that right.

We know that ships of the Soviet Navy will have access to the Canal, thereby shortening the time and distance and cost involved in maintaining a military presence in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, with all that this portends.

It would be a travesty and a gross injustice, if the Suez Canal is opened to Soviet ships and closed to our friend, Israel.

It makes absolutely no sense for American tax dollars to be spent for the clearing and opening of the Suez Canal, only to have our friends denied passage through this international waterway.

As a member of Congress, I will insist on fair and equal treatment for Israel.

Until Israel is assured the right of passage through the Canal, I cannot support the President's request for economic aid to Egypt.

I call upon Secretary Kissinger to inform the Congress and the American people of any assurances that he might have obtained from President Sadat relating to Israeli use of the Suez Canal.

I do not see how the Congress can approve this request until we have evidence that international law will be upheld.

Israel's second great need -- peace with her neighbors -- is an aim that has yet to be fulfilled.

Despite the very commendable efforts of Secretary Kissinger, despite the successful troop disengagement on the Egyptian front, and on the Syrian front, much work remains to be done if a lasting peace is to be achieved.

"Shuttle diplomacy" has worked excellently in achieving disengagement and this was a critical first step toward peace. And the President's trip certainly cemented the work done by Secretary Kissinger.

But the toughest negotiations are yet to begin. They will not be successful unless all parties work out acceptable solutions to this problem in direct, face-to-face bargaining.

It is imperative that Prime Minister Rabin, President Sadat, President Assad, and other Middle-East leaders sit down together and work out solutions to this problem.

Only through these direct negotiations will the basis be established for a peace in the Middle-East that can endure.

It is clear that the Palestinian terrorists do not want peace and will do everything in their power to sabotage peace efforts.

Their inhuman attack at Maalot is a tragic example of their actions and are an affront to human decency.

The nations who harbor these terrorists must realize the cancer they guard.

They must realize that there can be no constructive solution to the Palestinian problem as long as the terrorism continues.

Finally, I am certain that the one most important factor in building a lasting peace in the Middle East will be the commitment of the United States to the security of Israel.

Despite our improved relations with the Arab world -- relations which I endorse and approve -- the American commitment to Israel needs to be strengthened - made unmistakable.

-- The people of Israel and of the rest of the world need to know that the United States will never desert Israel and allow it to stand alone in any international forum -- be it the United Nations or any other body.

-- The people of Israel and of the rest of the world need to know that America will not be bullied or pressured by economic blackmail from any nation.

-- The people of Israel and of the rest of the world need to know that the American people believe that the national security of Israel can never be the subject of any negotiation.

The Congress of the United States knows of Israel's needs and will respond with compassion and understanding.

The President and Secretary of State have given our support to Israel during her hour of need.

But at a time of fragile peace, our commitment to a friend isolated from other nations as a result of unprecedented economic pressures -- must never waiver.

This is the only path to successful negotiation.

This is the only path to lasting peace.

#

Stars Spangled Banner ^{Stars} ~~super~~
 & Oh. Canada - maple leaf
 ✓ Hatikva Star of David

Edie Cantor (my)

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

106th Annual Convention

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE No. 6

Harvey J. Hurstfield
 (Mother's house)
more

B'NAI B'RITH

JNE Dinner

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUNE 23, 1974

(St. Paul) Dr. Harold Barvick - Pres
~~Harvey Hurstfield - Dist Director~~
~~Dist Director~~ Harold Furie

ⓧ Phil Kutznick

ⓧ Samuel Edelsberg

ⓧ Long. Frenzel

8 Midwestern States
4 Provinces of Canada

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT TO
PARTICIPATE IN YOUR ^{106th} ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Detroit Grand
Lodge #16.

THE B'NAI B'RITH HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART. I HAVE
KNOWN ABOUT THE GOOD WORK THAT THIS FINE ORGANIZATION DOES FOR
MANY, MANY YEARS.

your civic rights
a century of Service to Humanity
America - B'nai B'rith
Society - mosaic
Heritage -

L YOUR WORK IS VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

L B'NAI B'RITH HAS DONE SO MUCH TO FOSTER JEWSH IDENTITY IN

THE UNITED STATES. YOUR PROGRAMS IN THE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND

UNIVERSITIES OF THIS NATION HAVE ENABLED YOUNG PEOPLE TO CHERISH

AND APPRECIATE THEIR JEWISH HERITAGE AND CULTURE.

L I JOINED YOUR EFFORT -- YOUR STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS
and for a open & free Society
FOR ISRAEL AND FOR AMERICAN JEWS -- WHEN I FIRST CAME TO WASHINGTON

AS A YOUNG SENATOR.

AND I AM PROUD TO HAVE HAD A SMALL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF A
PEOPLE LONG PERSECUTED, BUT ALWAYS PERSISTENT IN THEIR AFFIRMATION
OF HUMAN POTENTIAL.

L PROUD, BECAUSE THERE IS A MESSAGE IN ^{True} ~~THREE~~ THOUSAND YEARS OF
STRUGGLE AND SURVIVAL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS SYMBOLIZED IN THE
STRUGGLE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

L THERE IS A MESSAGE IN THE MARTYRDOM AND NAMELESS VICTIMS OF
THIS STRUGGLE.

L AND THE MESSAGE IS: ¹⁴ ~~THE~~ WHILE PEOPLE MAY BE OPPRESSED, THE
URGE FOR FREEDOM WILL PERSIST UNDIMINISHED. ¹¹

L THIS IS THE STORY OF ISRAEL.

L THIS IS THE STORY OF JEWISH SUFFERING AND TRIUMPH.

L THROUGH THE PAGES OF JEWISH HISTORY, THE RESOLVE OF THE

JEWISH PEOPLE HAS BEEN CLEAR, AND IT IS TODAY.

*2. sum
Morrow
here*
L IN AMERICA, IN ISRAEL, IN THE SOVIET UNION, OR ANYWHERE
ELSE IN THE WORLD, EACH GENERATION OF JEWS HAS LEFT ITS MARK IN

THE STRUGGLE FOR THEIR OWN FREEDOM AS WELL AS FOR THE FREEDOM OF

OTHERS. *- Today in the USSR - Protest - let must!*
in Syria

L IT ~~was~~ ^{is} ONLY NATURAL FOR AMERICAN JEWS TO BE IN THE FOREFRONT

OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF BLACK AMERICANS. *- yes all*

L IT ~~was~~ ^{is} ONLY NATURAL FOR THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND
Anti-Defamation League American

THE B'NAI B'RITH TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING THE

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS -- THE CIVIL LIBERTIES -- OF ALL MINORITIES

AND ALL AMERICANS.

So TODAY WHEN WE DISCUSS ISRAEL AND AMERICA WE MUST ALSO
SPEAK IN TERMS OF A SHARED STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM.

ISAIAH SAID:

"BEHOLD, I WILL DO A NEW THING; NOW IT SHALL
SPRING FORTH; SHALL YE NOT KNOW IT? I WILL EVEN
MAKE A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS, AND RIVERS IN THE
DESERT."

THE DESERT HAS BEEN MADE FERTILE AGAIN.

A WAY HAS BEEN MADE IN THE WILDERNESS.

A PEOPLE HAVE GROWN STRONG AND RICH IN SPIRIT.

WITH GOD'S HELP, WITH ~~THE~~ A PEOPLE YEARNING FOR FREEDOM
AND WITH THE AID OF THOSE AROUND THE WORLD WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM,
ISRAEL HAS ~~PROSPERED AND REMAINED~~ *continues to be* FREE AND INDEPENDENT.

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH B'NAI B'RITH CAN LOOK
BACK WITH PRIDE AND A GREAT SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT. YOU HAVE PLAYED
AN ESSENTIAL AND LASTING ROLE IN THE FOUNDATION OF THE JEWISH STATE.

BUT, TODAY ISRAEL FACES ~~THE~~ SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

THE FIRST IS REMAINING STRONG AND INDEPENDENT.

THE SECOND IS BUILDING A LASTING PEACE WITH HER NEIGHBORS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE OCTOBER WAR TOOK A HEAVY TOLL ON ISRAEL.

THE MOBILIZATION OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN REDUCED ECONOMIC
PRODUCTIVITY.

THE COST OF THE WAR RAN INTO THE BILLIONS.

THE LOSS OF EXPENSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT MEANT THAT ISRAEL
WOULD HAVE TO DEplete ITS PRECIOUS RESERVES OF FOREIGN CURRENCY
TO BUY NEW WEAPONS FOR ITS SELF-DEFENSE.

aid

~~I AM PLEASED THAT~~ THE UNITED STATES CAME TO THE AID OF ISRAEL
WITH SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY AID AMOUNTING TO \$2.2 BILLION AND THAT
\$1 BILLION OF THAT SUM WAS IN THE FORM OF GRANT ASSISTANCE.

It was my privilege
~~AND I AM HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO MANAGE THAT VITAL LEGISLATION~~
IN THE SENATE.

THIS AID WAS BADLY NEEDED TO KEEP ISRAEL STRONG AND TO MAINTAIN
THE BALANCE OF POWER AND TO CONVINCE THE ARAB WORLD AND THE SOVIET
UNION THAT WE WOULD NOT DESERT OUR FRIENDS.

{ ISRAEL MAY NEED MORE ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ITS ECONOMY
AND MAINTAIN ITS MILITARY STRENGTH. *We will soon be*

WE WILL SOON BE CONSIDERING OUR FOREIGN AID BILL. I WANT TO
ASSURE YOU THAT THE CONGRESS WILL TAKE A VERY CLOSE LOOK AT THE
PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR AID TO ISRAEL FOR THIS YEAR.

considering our program of Economic
& military assistance and

~~THERE ARE SOME VERY STRONG INDICATIONS THAT THE SUM MAY BE~~

~~INSUFFICIENT.~~

~~AND WHILE WE ARE DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE,~~

I WANT TO ^{state} ~~REPORT~~ MY POSITION ON TWO IMPORTANT CURRENT ISSUES.

THE PRESIDENT HAS REQUESTED THAT CONGRESS AUTHORIZE ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE TO SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES.

~~I~~ ^{must} ~~SHARP~~ SHARPLY QUESTION ASSISTANCE TO OIL PRODUCING NATIONS

WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ENRICHED BY THE HIGH PRICES THEY HAVE
CHARGED THE REST OF THE WORLD FOR VITALLY NEEDED FUEL EXPORTS.

HOWEVER, ^{I do support} ~~I APPROVE OF THIS~~ AID WHERE IT IS NEEDED TO HELP

REBUILD AND DEVELOP WHAT ARE ESSENTIALLY POOR AND UNDERDEVELOPED
NATIONS.

It IS IN OUR HUMANITARIAN TRADITION TO AID THOSE IN NEED.

and

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DEMONSTRATE OUR DESIRE TO RE-ESTABLISH
NORMAL RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

↳ IT IS BASIC TO ACHIEVING LASTING PEACE AND TO ASSURING ISRAEL'S
SECURITY.

we must have positive assurance
↳ BUT ~~DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD GRANT ECONOMIC~~
that Commerce - Goods + Ships
~~ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT UNTIL WE HAVE ITS ASSURANCE THAT SUPPLIES OF ALL~~
Goods + Equipment for Israel
NATIONS -- INCLUDING ~~EGYPT AND ISRAEL~~ -- WILL BE
ALLOWED PASSAGE THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. *Also there must*

be
AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PROVIDE
or any other country
EGYPT WITH NUCLEAR REACTORS UNTIL THE CONGRESS IS ASSURED THAT
THERE ARE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF ATOMIC
WEAPONS FROM THE NUCLEAR MATERIALS IN THESE REACTORS.

IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT IS NOT NEEDED IN THE MIDDLE EAST
IT IS A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.

NOW, TO RETURN TO THE QUESTION OF THE CANAL.

THE RIGHT OF FREE ISRAELI PASSAGE THROUGH THE CANAL IS
GUARANTEED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL TREATY.

BUT, ISRAEL HAS NEVER BEEN GRANTED THAT RIGHT.

WE KNOW THAT SHIPS OF THE SOVIET NAVY WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE
CANAL, THEREBY SHORTENING THE TIME AND DISTANCE AND COST INVOLVED
IN MAINTAINING A MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE
INDIAN OCEAN, WITH ALL THAT THIS PORTENDS.

IT WOULD BE A TRAVESTY AND A GROSS INJUSTICE, IF THE SUEZ CANAL
IS OPENED TO SOVIET SHIPS AND CLOSED TO OUR FRIEND, ISRAEL.

4 IT MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE FOR AMERICAN TAX DOLLARS TO BE
SPENT FOR THE CLEARING AND OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL, ONLY TO HAVE
OUR FRIENDS DENIED PASSAGE THROUGH THIS INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY.

AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, I WILL INSIST ON FAIR AND EQUAL
TREATMENT FOR ISRAEL.

UNTIL ISRAEL IS ASSURED THE RIGHT OF PASSAGE THROUGH THE CANAL,
I CANNOT SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC AID TO EGYPT.

~~I CALL UPON SECRETARY KISSINGER TO INFORM THE CONGRESS AND THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE OF ANY ASSURANCES THAT HE MIGHT HAVE OBTAINED FROM
PRESIDENT SADAT RELATING TO ISRAELI USE OF THE SUEZ CANAL.~~

~~I DO NOT SEE HOW THE CONGRESS CAN APPROVE THIS REQUEST UNTIL
WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT INTERNATIONAL LAW WILL BE UPHELD.~~

#2 ISRAEL'S SECOND GREAT NEED -- PEACE WITH HER NEIGHBORS -- IS
AN AIM THAT HAS YET TO BE FULFILLED.

DESPIITE THE VERY COMMENDABLE EFFORTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER,
DESPIITE THE SUCCESSFUL TROOP DISENGAGEMENT ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT,
AND ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE IF A LASTING
PEACE IS TO BE ACHIEVED.

L "SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY" HAS WORKED EXCELLENTLY IN ACHIEVING
DISENGAGEMENT AND THIS WAS A CRITICAL FIRST STEP TOWARD PEACE.

AND THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP CERTAINLY ^{*supported & strengthened*} ~~generated~~ THE WORK DONE BY

SECRETARY KISSINGER.

L BUT THE TOUGHEST NEGOTIATIONS ARE YET TO BEGIN. THEY
WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL UNLESS ALL PARTIES WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE

SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM IN DIRECT, FACE-TO-FACE BARGAINING.

It will require Time, Patience, Persistence!
But IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN, PRESIDENT SADAT,

PRESIDENT ASSAD, AND OTHER MIDDLE-EAST LEADERS SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND

WORK OUT SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM.

L ONLY THROUGH THESE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WILL THE BASIS BE
ESTABLISHED FOR A PEACE IN THE MIDDLE-EAST THAT CAN ENDURE.

It is clear that the PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS DO NOT WANT PEACE AND WILL DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO SABOTAGE PEACE EFFORTS.

Their inhuman attack at MAALOT IS A TRAGIC EXAMPLE OF THEIR ACTIONS AND ARE AN AFFRONT TO HUMAN DECENCY.

THE NATIONS WHO HARBOR THESE TERRORISTS MUST REALIZE THE CANCER THEY GUARD.

They must realize that there can be no constructive solution TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AS LONG AS THE TERRORISM COUNTRIES ^{CONTINUES}

FINALLY, I AM CERTAIN THAT THE ONE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN BUILDING A LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

Despite our improved relations with the ARAB WORLD -- RELATIONS WHICH I ENDORSE AND APPROVE -- THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED - MADE UNMISTAKABLE.

-- THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND OF THE REST OF THE WORLD NEED TO
KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER DESERT ISRAEL AND ALLOW IT TO
STAND ALONE IN ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUM -- BE IT THE UNITED NATIONS OR
ANY OTHER BODY.

-- THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND OF THE REST OF THE WORLD NEED TO
KNOW THAT AMERICA WILL NOT BE BULLIED OR PRESSURED BY ECONOMIC
BLACKMAIL FROM ANY NATION.

-- THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND OF THE REST OF THE WORLD NEED TO
KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY
OF ISRAEL CAN NEVER BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY NEGOTIATION.

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES KNOWS OF ISRAEL'S NEEDS
AND WILL RESPOND WITH COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING.

THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE HAVE GIVEN ^{their} ~~our~~ SUPPORT
TO ISRAEL DURING HER HOUR OF NEED.

BUT AT A TIME OF FRAGILE PEACE, OUR COMMITMENT TO A FRIEND

ISOLATED FROM OTHER NATIONS AS A RESULT OF UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC

PRESSURES -- MUST NEVER WAIVER.

THIS IS THE ONLY PATH TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION.

THIS IS THE ONLY PATH TO LASTING PEACE.

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