## REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

Washington, D.C.

January 26, 1975

It is a pleasure to be here tonight.

The purpose of tonight's affair - the celebration of education, citizenship, and religious values - is truly a central theme of the American experience.

It rises above our day-to-day concerns to the real meaning of our lives.

I am deeply honored to be saluted by your institution. I have long followed the successul growth of the Jewish day school and high school movement and have the highest regard for these institutions and their accomplishments.

The Yeshiva High School movement has made contributions that have meaning for all Americans.

I know several of your school's graduates and I can personally testify to the sincerity, dedication and perseverance that these young men and women bring to their every task.

We are all richer for your efforts and all of us here in Washington should be proud to have such a fine school in our community.

I also am pleased to learn that you have decided to open a Touro College Freshman Center. Touro is an exciting young college whose growth I have been following with particular interest because a number of my friends are involved both with the college and with its new Law School.

On a second level, however, schools such as the Yeshiva High School of Greater Washington have made an even more profound contribution to American life.

We live in a pluralistic nation - a country of minorities - each with a distinct and proud heritage. Combined, they make up the fascinating mosaic that is American life.

We have no single American identity. On the contrary, it is only in totalitarian regimes that there is an official identity to which all people must conform.

We have all learned this lesson from the social upheavals of the past few decades.

We have learned that America is more than just one big "melting pot."

We have learned that America is a tapestry of many colors, beliefs and cultures.

We must not tell Black Americans, Jewish Americans, Chicano Americans, Italian Americans or any others to submerge or ignore their individual identity and heritage.

We must instead realize that a robust and vibrant America requires the full contribution of our many groups - that our distinctive traditions have meaning today and value for us all. And it is especially here, where the Jewish day school and high school is making an historic contribution.

The concerns of America are not narrow, requiring simple solutions. They require the use of every resource in our great pluralistic society.

By producing well educated young Jewish men and women, your school is thus strengthening the fabric of our entire nation and performing a priceless service on behalf of all Americans.

This, then, is a fundamental lesson of pluralism -- the value of each and every group's contribution to the quality of the overall national experience.

There are some in this country who say that a parent who wants his or her child to receive a cultural or religious education must be prepared to bear the total cost.

I can not agree with that position.

Hebrew day schools and high schools perform a priceless service -- forging strong links in a tradition that benefits our country.

None of us wants the government to take over religious education.

That would undermine religion and government together. Financing religious education is the duty of the private sector -- a duty that Jewish Americans have gratefully shouldered in the past and are eager to bear in the future.

But we must urgently find imaginative and creative methods for aiding the non-religious part of our children's education.

- -- We must expand grants in aid for scientific equipment and modern educational tools.
- -- We must encourage participation in the school lunch program.

Another area to which we should give attention is the protection of Sabbath observance.

Millions of Americans, of both the Jewish and the Seventh Day Adventist faith, whose day of Sabbath is Saturday, confront serious difficulties in this observance.

Sabbath observance is a basic right. It is not a privilege or a luxury.

These are some examples of steps toward strengthening a governmental policy that respects religious heritage in a pluralistic society.

But we must also witness today governmental policies that respect and respond to the deep concerns and basic values of that religious heritage.

Our religious heritage mandates a profound respect for human dignity.

It is incumbent upon government to affirm that dignity through measures to address unemployment, now running at over 6 percent; to make our urban areas more liveable; and to assure quality health care for all our citizens and a good education for our children.

We must insist upon government planning for our future rather than moving from crisis to crisis.

And we must demand intensive governmental efforts to resolve the critical world food situation, to negotiate a halt to the nuclear arms race, to press for peace, stability, and respect for national sovereignty and an end to armed conflict and political terrorism.

The lessons of pluralism must be applied to international issues as well.

Out of our own pluralistic heritage we must all be deeply concerned about the status of minority groups in the Soviet Union.

This is not just a Jewish problem.

It is a human problem.

Millions of people in the Soviet Union are denied the rudimentary human rights of cultural, religious and educational freedom.

These rights and the right to unrestricted emigration are fundamental principles which no government should be permitted to abrogate or circumscribe.

We in the United States Senate have made this position a cornerstone of our policy toward Soviet-American relations.

The Soviet Union has unfortunately chosen a closed and repressive society over the considerable economic advantages that were offered in the Trade Reform Act of 1974.

All of us who believe in the cause of human freedom must now double and redouble our efforts to assure that the plight of oppressed Soviet minorities remains an international human concern of the highest priority.

If they are not allowed to live in freedom then they must be permitted to leave in freedom.

We shall settle for nothing less.

And finally, my friends, the lessons of pluralism are nowhere more apparent than in the heroic struggle of the state of Israel.

Today, Israel is a nation besieged.

Israel is a nation surrounded by hostile neighbors unwilling to recognize its existence more than a quarter century after its creation.

Today Israel finds itself under attack in many of the international organizations to which it belongs. And these attacks to isolate Israel diplomatically are being led by Arab states and Third World nations who have not learned the lessons of international pluralism.

Only a few months ago Israel was barred from participating in UNESCO -- the United Nations Organization which handles international educational, social and cultural affairs. This is the same organization which has donated only \$28,000 to Israel, but has contributed millions to education in Egypt and other Arab lands as well as for Palestinian refugee children.

The virtual removal of Israel from this small but important United Nations organization has set a dangerous precedent. It not only is a probe of Arab and Palestinian strength, but is also symbolic of Western weakness and disarray.

If Israel's expulsion from participation in UNESCO is allowed to go unchallenged, I feel certain that those who organized this scheme will next attempt to expel Israel from the General Assembly of the United Nations.

If this should happen -- if Israel is barred from the General Assembly -- peace in the Middle East surely would be in jeopardy.

We must not let the United Nations be turned into a political body which can expel those nations who at one time or another are in disfavor with the majority. If this were allowed to happen, it would signal the transformation of the United Nations from a peaceful arena into one where those championing violence and confrontation have triumphed.

The voices of reason must prevail. The United Nations of 1975 must not be transformed into the League of Nations of the 1930's. World War II was born in the destruction of the League of Nations.

I will not be silent on this issue.

I count myself as one of the UN's strongest supporters in the Congress.

But I will not sit back and remain silent as I watch this body, born in the destruction of the Second World War, be perverted for political purposes by a single group of nations and their unwitting allies.

I joined with Senator Clifford Case of New Jersey in his amendment to the Foreign Aid bill which required the United States to cease its \$16 million participation in UNESCO until Israel is restored to its rightful place in this body.

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

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

- -- The people of Israel need to know that America will not be bullied or pressured by economic blackmail from any nation.
- -- The people of Israel 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 has responded with compassion and understanding.

We have done this and we shall do more to assure the people of Israel that they do not stand alone in their hour of peril.

The Bible asks us to choose life.

Israel has chosen life -- a rich, vigorous, democratic life. And, we in the United States can do nothing less than to show our support and respect for that choice.

We cannot pledge our assistance in words and then renege on our commitments in deeds.

May the coming year bring peace to the Middle East, and all Mankind.

# # # # #

Rolli-

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Rath Wollling - | Parendential Plaqueto Daniel sasty

YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- U.S. Hotel Coptal Gustarial Society

JANUARY 26, 1975

Mostvanterner mis borchid
Rena Clark - (Shuduating this
Handlif Thelan hafter)

the Windlungton with injured.

Joel Davis - Prendent 7 yealwa H. Ichal

my Granden "of natagain

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TONIGHT.

THE PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S AFFAIR - THE CELEBRATION OF EDUCATION, CITIZENSHIP, AND RELIGIOUS VALUES - IS TRULY A CENTRAL THEME OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

IT RISES ABOVE OUR DAY-TO-DAY CONCERNS TO THE REAL MEANING OF OUR LIVES.

I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE SALUTED BY YOUR INSTITUTION,

I HAVE TOUG FOLLOWED THE SUCCESSUL GROWTH OF THE JEWISH

DAY SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL MOVEMENT AND HAVE THE HIGHEST

REGARD FOR THESE INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

THE YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL MOVEMENT HAS MADE CONTRIBUTIONS

THAT HAVE MEANING FOR ALL AMERICANS.

I KNOW SEVERAL OF YOUR SCHOOL'S GRADUATES AND I CAN

PERSONALLY TESTIFY TO THE SINCERITY, DEDICATION AND

PERSEVERANCE THAT THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN BRING TO

THEIR EVERY TASK.

WE ARE ALL RICHER FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND ALL OF US HERE

IN WASHINGTON SHOULD BE PROUD TO HAVE SUCH A FINE SCHOOL

IN OUR COMMUNITY.

de Burnary Ian I ALSO AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED

OPEN A TOURO COLLEGE FRESHMAN CENTER.

EXCITING YOUNG COLLEGE WHOSE GROWTH I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING

WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST BECAUSE A NUMBER OF MY FRIENDS ARE

INVOLVED BOTH WITH THE COLLEGE AND WITH ITS NEW LAW SCHOOL.

( Prog David Lukins)

ON A SECOND LEVEL, HOWEVER, SCHOOLS SUCH AS THE YESHIVA

HIGH SCHOOL OF GREATER WASHINGTON HAVE MADE AN EVEN MORE

PROFOUND CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN LIFE.

WE LIVE IN A PLURALISTIC NATION - A COUNTRY OF MINORITIES -

EACH WITH A DISTINCT AND PROUD HERITAGE COMBINED, THEY MAKE

UP THE FASCINATING MOSAIC THAT IS AMERICAN LIFE.

WE HAVE NO SINGLE AMERICAN IDENTITY ON THE CONTRARY,

IT IS ONLY IN TOTALITARIAN REGIMES THAT THERE IS AN OFFICIAL

IDENTITY TO WHICH ALL PEOPLE MUST CONFORM.

WE HAVE ALL LEARNED THIS LESSON FROM THE SOCIAL UPHEAVALS

OF THE PAST FEW DECADES.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA IS MORE THAN JUST ONE

BIG "MELTING POT,"

/ WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA IS A TAPESTRY OF MANY COLORS, BELIEFS AND CULTURES. WE MUST NOT TELL BLACK AMERICANS, JEWISH AMERICANS, CHICANO AMERICANS, ITALIAN AMERICANS OR ANY OTHERS TO SUBMERGE OR IGNORE THEIR INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY AND HERITAGE. WE MUST INSTEAD REALIZE THAT A ROBUST AND VIBRANT AMERICA REQUIRES THE FULL CONTRIBUTION OF OUR MANY GROUPS - THAT OUR TRADITIONS DISTINCTIVE ENUDITIONS HAVE MEANING TODAY AND VALUE FOR US AND IT IS ESPECIALLY HERE, WHERE THE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL IS MAKING AN HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION. THE CONCERNS OF AMERICA ARE NOT NARROW, REQUIRING SIMPLE SOLUTIONS, THEY REQUIRE THE USE OF EVERY RESOURCE IN OUR GREAT PLURALISTIC SOCIETY.

A BY PRODUCING WELL EDUCATED YOUNG JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN

YOUR SCHOOL IS THUS STRENGTHENING THE FABRIC OF OUR ENTIRE

NATION AND PERFORMING A PRICELESS SERVICE ON BEHALF OF ALL

AMERICANS.

THIS THEN IS A FUNDAMENTAL LESSON OF PLURALISM -- THE

VALUE OF EACH AND EVERY GROUP'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUALITY

OF THE OVERALL NATIONAL EXPERIENCE and Character

THERE ARE SOME IN THIS COUNTRY WHO SAY THAT A PARENT WHO

WANTS HIS OR HER CHILD TO RECEIVE A CULTURAL OR RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION MUST BE PREPARED TO BEAR THE TOTAL COST.

I CAN NOT AGREE WITH THAT POSITION.

HEBREW DAY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS PERFORM A PRICELESS

SERVICE -- FORGING STRONG LINKS IN A TRADITION THAT BENEFITS

OUR COUNTRY.

None of us wants the government to take over religious education.

THAT WOULD UNDERMINE RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT TOGETHER.

FINANCING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS THE DUTY OF THE PRIVATE

SECTOR -- A DUTY THAT JEWISH AMERICANS HAVE GENERALLY

SHOULDERED IN THE PAST AND ARE EAGER TO BEAR IN THE FUTURE.

BUT WE MUST URGENTLY FIND IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE

METHODS FOR AIDING THE NON-RELIGIOUS PART OF OUR CHILDREN'S

EDUCATION.

-- WE MUST EXPAND GRANTS IN AID FOR SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

AND MODERN EDUCATIONAL TOOLS. - 7-Books

-- WE MUST ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL LUNCH

PROGRAM.

ANOTHER AREA TO WHICH WE SHOULD GIVE ATTENTION IS THE PROTECTION OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, OF BOTH THE JEWISH AND THE SEVENTH

DAY ADVENTIST FAITH, WHOSE DAY OF SABBATH IS SATURDAY, CONFRONT

SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN THIS OBSERVANCE.

/ SABBATH OBSERVANCE IS A BASIC RIGHT / IT IS NOT A PRIVILEGE

OR A LUXURY.

These are some examples of steps toward strengthening a

GOVERNMENTAL POLICY THAT RESPECTS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE IN A

PLURALISTIC SOCIETY,

BUT WE MUST ALSO WITHES THEAT GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES

THAT RESPECT AND RESPOND TO THE DEEP CONCERNS AND BASIC VALUES

OF THAT RELIGIOUS HERITAGE.

OUR RELIGIOUS HERITAGE MANDATES A PROFOUND RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY.

IT IS INCUMBENT UPON GOVERNMENT TO AFFIRM THAT DIGNITY

THROUGH MEASURES TO ADDRESS UNEMPLOYMENT, NOW RUNNING AT

OVER PERCENT, TO MAKE OUR URBAN AREAS MORE LIVEABLE, AND TO

ASSURE QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS AND A GOOD

EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

WE MUST INSIST UPON GOVERNMENT PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

AND WE MUST DEMAND INTENSIVE GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS TO

RESOLVE THE CRITICAL WORLD FOOD SITUATION. TO NEGOTIATE A HALT

TO THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. TO PRESS FOR PEACE, STABILITY, AND

RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND AN END TO ARMED CONFLICT

AND POLITICAL TERRORISM.

THE LESSONS OF PLURALISM MUST BE APPLIED TO INTERNATIONAL

ISSUES AS WELL.

OUT OF OUR OWN ELLEMAN STATE HERITAGE WE WEST ALL BE DEEPLY

CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

Kraygon of

THIS IS NOT JUST A JEWISH PROBLEM.

IT IS A HUMAN PROBLEM.

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE DENIED THE

RUDIMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL

FREEDOM.

THESE RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO UNRESTRICTED EMIGRATION ARE

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH NO GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PERMITTED

TO ABROGATE OR CIRCUMSCRIBE,

WE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE HAVE MADE THIS POSITION A CORNERSTONE OF OUR POLICY TOWARD SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE SOVIET UNION HAS UNFORTUNATELY CHOSEN A CLOSED AND REPRESSIVE SOCIETY OVER THE CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES THAT WERE OFFERED IN THE TRADE REFORM ACT OF 1974. ALL OF US WHO BELIEVE IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN FREEDOM MUST NOW DOUBLE AND REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO ASSURE THAT THE PLIGHT OF OPPRESSED SOVIET MINORITIES REMAINS AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN CONCERN OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. IF THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LIVE IN FREEDOM THEN THEY MUST BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE IN FREEDOM. WE SHALL SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS.

LA

AND FINALLY, MY FRIENDS, THE LESSONS OF P

Democratic Pluralumar

NOWHERE MORE APPARENT THAN IN THE HEROIC STRUGGLE OF THE

STATE OF ISRAEL.

L TODAY, ISRAEL IS A NATION BESIEGED.

I I SPACE IS A MATION SURROUNDED BY HOSTILE NEIGHBORS UNWILLING

TO RECOGNIZE ITS EXISTENCE MORE THAN A QUARTER CENTURY AFTER

ITS CREATION.

TODAY ISRAEL FINDS ITSELF UNDER ATTACK IN MANY OF THE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH IT BELONGS . AND THESE

ATTACKS TO ISOLATE ISRAEL DIPLOMATICALLY ARE BEING LED BY

ARAB STATES AND THIRD WORLD NATIONS WHO HAVE NOT LEARNED THE

LESSONS OF INTERNATIONAL PLURALISM.

Only a few months ago Israel was barred from participating IN UNESCO -- THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION WHICH HANDLES INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS THIS IS THE SAME ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS DONATED ONLY \$28,000 TO ISRAEL, BUT HAS CONTRIBUTED MILLIONS TO EDUCATION IN EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB LANDS AS WELL AS FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN. THE VIRTUAL REMOVAL OF ISRAEL FROM THIS SMALL BUT IMPORTANT United Nations organization has set a dangerous precedent, It not only is a probe of Arab and Palestinian strength, but IS ALSO SYMBOLIC OF WESTERN WEAKNESS AND DISARRAY. IF ISRAEL'S EXPULSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO IS ALLOWED TO GO UNCHALLENGED, I FEEL CERTAIN THAT THOSE WHO ORGANIZED THIS SCHEME WILL NEXT ATTEMPT TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN -- IF ISRAEL IS BARRED FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST SURELY WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY.

WE MUST NOT LET THE UNITED NATIONS BE TURNED INTO A POLITICAL BODY WHICH CAN EXPEL THOSE NATIONS WHO AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER ARE IN DISFAVOR WITH THE MAJORITY [ IF THIS WERE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN, IT WOULD SIGNAL THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FROM A PEACEFUL ARENA INTO ONE WHERE THOSE CHAMPIONING VIOLENCE AND CONFRONTATION HAVE TRIUMPHED. THE VOICES OF REASON MUST PREVAIL THE UNITED NATIONS OF 1975 MUST NOT BE TRANSFORMED INTO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS OF THE 1930'S. WORLD WAR II WAS BORN IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS,

## WILL NOT BE SILENT ON THIS ISSUE.

I COUNT MYSELF AS ONE OF THE UN'S STRONGEST SUPPORTERS
IN THE CONGRESS.

BUT I WILL NOT SIT BACK AND REMAIN SILENT AS I WATCH

THIS BODY, BORN IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR,

BE PERVERTED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES BY A SINGLE GROUP OF

NATIONS AND THEIR UNWITTING ALLIES.

I JOINED WITH SENATOR CLIFFORD CASE OF NEW JERSEY IN

THE FOREIGN AID BILL WHICH REQUIRED THE

United States to cease its \$16 million participation in

UNESCO UNTIL ISRAEL IS RESTORED TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN

THIS BODY.

DESPITE OUR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD -RELATIONS WHICH I ENDORSE AND APPROVE -- THE AMERICAN

COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL NEEDS TO BE REAFFIRMED AND STRENGTHENED.

The people of Israel need to know that the United

States never will desert them and allow them to stand alone

IN ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUM -- BE IT THE UNITED NATIONS OR

ANY OTHER BODY.

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

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

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES KNOWS OF ISRAEL'S
NEEDS AND HAS RESPONDED WITH COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING.
WE HAVE DONE THIS AND WE SHALL DO MORE TO ASSURE THE
PEOPLE OF ISRAEL THAT THEY DO NOT STAND ALONE IN THEIR HOUR
OF PERIL.
THE BIBLE ASKS US TO CHOOSE LIFE.
/ ISRAEL HAS CHOSEN LIFE A RICH, VIGOROUS, DEMOCRATIC
LIFE. AND, WE IN THE UNITED STATES CAN DO NOTHING LESS THAN
TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT AND RESPECT FOR THAT CHOICE.
WE CANNOT PLEDGE OUR ASSISTANCE IN WORDS AND THEN
RENEGE ON OUR COMMITMENTS IN DEEDS.
May the coming year bring peace to the Middle East, and
ALL MANKIND.

## 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.

