

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
SOLIDARITY DAY RALLY FOR SOVIET JEWRY

New York, New York

April 13, 1975

Today the people of America -- Jews and Christians, rich and poor, black and white -- bear witness to one of the great human dramas of our time.

Today we bear witness to the suffering of a people who ask only to be free.

The drama and suffering of Soviet Jewry is the drama of Jewish history.

It is the drama of faith and hope.

It is the drama of a brave people struggling to keep alive the flame of human liberty against insurmountable odds.

Americans have a great stake in this human struggle.

This nation always has supported those who are willing to fight for their freedom.

Our land is inhabited by men and women who have escaped religious persecution in foreign lands. We are a nation of hope and of freedom for those denied their liberty.

Nearly 200 years after our independence, we have a moral obligation to tell the leaders of the Soviet Union that the American people have not abandoned their conviction that Soviet Jews be granted their freedom.

We must tell the leadership of the Soviet Union that the United States is unwilling to sign agreements with them if they deny Americans the right to postal and telephone communication with their brothers and sisters in Russia.

And we must tell Soviet leaders that detente means more than financial credits to help Soviet industry.

Detente must mean the free flow of ideas between our two nations. And it must mean that religious and cultural supplies from the American Jewish community should be allowed to be sent to the Soviet Jewish community.

We must tell the leadership of the Soviet Union that the American people want to know why a superpower is afraid of a Jewish prayer book.

We want to know why this superpower feels that it must outlaw the study of the Torah or the observance of the Sabbath.

Why is the Soviet Union so afraid of the timeless truth of your heritage that it will send men and women to prison if they dare teach this heritage to their children?

I have been to the Soviet Union many times.

I have met with the fearless leaders of the Jewish underground. I have marveled at their tenacity and the depth of their dedication. They have risked their lives for the cause of human freedom.

How can we as a free people not join in their struggle?

We cannot, we must not, we will not abandon them in their hour of need.

Every time I go to the Soviet Union I express to the Soviet authorities the outrage and concern of the American people. I have told Mr. Brezhnev, Mr. Kosygin, and Mr. Gromyko what all of us today must tell them about their Jewish citizens:

Let them live as Jews or let them leave as Jews.

It is as simple as that.

And when the Jews of the Soviet Union leave, we must insure that they can go to a secure and strong state of Israel.

Despite the talk of reappraisal, despite the doubts and worries, I want to assure you that the Congress of the United States and the American people are not about to turn their backs on Israel.

Israel is more than the only democracy in the Middle East.

It is more than America's most faithful ally in that troubled corner of the world.

It is the embodiment of a people's dream -- a dream from which Americans of all faiths draw inspiration.

The Jews of the Soviet Union yearn to become a part of this dream.

Today we must pledge our support, and we must pray for the day when Soviet Jews will be able to give thanks to the God of their fathers in the land of their fathers.

As Americans and free people we can do no less.

#

Distinguished Rabbis

Gene Gold

Gov Carey - Lt Gov Krassack
Kroosack

(Mayor Beame)

Members of Congress

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Sen Brock

Fellow Americans

SOLIDARITY DAY RALLY FOR SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

APRIL 13, 1975

Hald Gov Carey
Lt Gov

Sen Brock

⌞ TODAY THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA -- JEWS AND CHRISTIANS, RICH

AND POOR, BLACK AND WHITE -- BEAR WITNESS TO ONE OF THE GREAT

HUMAN DRAMAS OF OUR TIME.

the struggle of Soviet Jewry for a life of dignity & freedom

⌞ TODAY WE BEAR WITNESS TO THE SUFFERING OF A PEOPLE WHO

ASK ONLY TO BE FREE.

*Free to Worship their God -
Free to Teach their children
~~Free to Emigrate and to Speak their~~*

⌞ THE DRAMA AND SUFFERING OF SOVIET JEWRY IS THE DRAMA OF

*Free to speak their conscience
and Free to Emigrate*

JEWISH HISTORY.

Free to speak their conscience

⌞ IT IS THE DRAMA OF FAITH AND HOPE.

⌞ IT IS THE DRAMA OF A BRAVE PEOPLE STRUGGLING TO KEEP ALIVE

THE FLAME OF HUMAN LIBERTY AGAINST INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS.

⌞ AMERICANS HAVE A GREAT STAKE IN THIS HUMAN STRUGGLE.

⌞ THIS NATION ALWAYS HAS SUPPORTED THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO

FIGHT FOR THEIR FREEDOM.

the

OUR LAND IS INHABITED BY MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE ESCAPED
^{+ Political}
RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN FOREIGN LANDS. WE ARE A NATION OF HOPE

AND OF FREEDOM FOR THOSE DENIED THEIR LIBERTY. *We are the land
of the immigrants and the children of the immigrants*

NEARLY 200 YEARS AFTER OUR INDEPENDENCE, WE HAVE A MORAL
OBLIGATION TO TELL THE LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION THAT THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE NOT ABANDONED THEIR CONVICTION THAT

SOVIET JEWS BE GRANTED THEIR FREEDOM *to worship, and to Emigrate.*

WE MUST TELL THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET UNION THAT THE
UNITED STATES IS UNWILLING TO SIGN AGREEMENTS ~~WITH THEM~~ IF THEY
DENY AMERICANS THE RIGHT TO POSTAL AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION
WITH THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN RUSSIA.

AND WE MUST TELL SOVIET LEADERS THAT DETENTE MEANS MORE
THAN FINANCIAL CREDITS TO HELP SOVIET INDUSTRY

DETENTE MUST MEAN THE FREE FLOW OF IDEAS BETWEEN OUR TWO
NATIONS. AND IT MUST MEAN THAT RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SUPPLIES
FROM THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BE SENT
TO THE SOVIET JEWISH COMMUNITY. ~~DELETED~~

WE MUST TELL THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET UNION THAT THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHY A ⁿSUPERPOWER IS AFRAID OF A
JEWISH PRAYER BOOK.

WE WANT TO KNOW WHY THIS ^{nuclear} SUPERPOWER FEELS THAT IT MUST
OUTLAW THE STUDY OF THE TORAH OR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

WHY IS THE SOVIET UNION SO AFRAID OF THE TIMELESS TRUTH
OF ^{Jewish} JEWISH HERITAGE THAT IT WILL SEND MEN AND WOMEN TO PRISON IF
THEY DARE TEACH THIS HERITAGE TO THEIR CHILDREN?

I HAVE BEEN TO THE SOVIET UNION MANY TIMES.

and

I HAVE MET WITH THE *Courageous* ~~FEARLESS~~ LEADERS OF THE JEWISH

UNDERGROUND. I HAVE MARVELED AT THEIR TENACITY AND THE DEPTH

OF THEIR DEDICATION. THEY HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR THE CAUSE

OF HUMAN FREEDOM. *They are in the tradition of the Early American Patriots who defied British King -*

SO L HOW CAN WE AS A FREE PEOPLE NOT JOIN IN THEIR STRUGGLE? -

WE CANNOT, WE MUST NOT, WE WILL NOT ABANDON THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED.

America is at its best when it speaks up for the Victims of oppression - when we champion the cause of Human Rights.

EVERY TIME I GO TO THE SOVIET UNION I EXPRESS TO THE

moral
SOVIET AUTHORITIES THE OUTRAGE AND CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

~~Soviet~~
I HAVE TOLD MR. BREZHNEV, MR. KOSYGIN, AND MR. GROMYKO WHAT ALL

OF US TODAY MUST TELL THEM ABOUT THEIR JEWISH CITIZENS:

LET THEM LIVE AS JEWS OR LET THEM LEAVE AS JEWS.

IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

AND WHEN THE JEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION LEAVE, WE MUST INSURE

THAT THEY CAN GO TO A SECURE AND STRONG STATE OF ISRAEL.

DESPITE THE TALK OF REAPPRAISAL, DESPITE THE DOUBTS AND

WORRIES, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED

STATES AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ~~ARE NOT ABOUT TO~~ ^{will not} TURN THEIR

BACKS ON ISRAEL.

*We will back & support the necessary
Economic & Military assistance
for Israel.*

ISRAEL IS MORE THAN THE ONLY DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE

EAST.

No New Boycotts UN

IT IS MORE THAN AMERICA'S MOST FAITHFUL ALLY IN THAT

TROUBLED CORNER OF THE WORLD.

Israel is our friend.

*Tell the world I am
supporting*

It IS THE EMBODIMENT OF A PEOPLE'S DREAM -- A DREAM FROM
WHICH AMERICANS OF ALL FAITHS DRAW INSPIRATION. *the dream*
of freedom - of human dignity - of justice and
peace
THE JEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION YEARN TO BECOME A PART OF THIS

DREAM.

TODAY WE MUST PLEDGE OUR SUPPORT, AND WE MUST PRAY FOR
THE DAY WHEN SOVIET JEWS WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE THANKS TO THE
GOD OF THEIR FATHERS IN THE LAND OF THEIR FATHERS.

AS AMERICANS AND FREE PEOPLE WE CAN DO NO LESS.

#####



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